

**MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S
17TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on
SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER, 2013
at
SUNNYSIDE RURAL TRUST**

Present:

John Eaton (Chair)
Lin Phillips (Vice-chair) (minutes)
Jenny Sippings (Secretary)
John Powell (Treasurer)
Wendy Calder
Clive Smith
Kate Rankin
Neil Kennedy
Tricia Kennedy
Adrian Scarborough
Andrew Calderwood
John Goffey
Phillipa Jones
Ray Phipps
Grace Phipps
Cynthia Fulks
Jamie Fulks
Peter Brady
Andy Dolwin
Jane Dickenson
Rosemary Burnett

Apologies for Absence:

Geoff Halls
Helen Russell
Angela Wheeldon
Freda Earl
Phil Biss
Chris Locke
Ian Peplow
Jeanne Woodcraft
Simon Heywood
Ted Dyer
John Driver
Andy James
Hazel Grimwood

1/13 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received (see above).

2/13 To approve the minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the AGM held on 24th November 2012 were confirmed and signed.

3/13 To receive the Chairman's report

John Eaton presented his report, summarised as follows:

- John thanked the members of the Committee and other volunteers; to Annick, who has now stepped down for organising the working parties; to Chris O'Callaghan for dealing with the seed orders; to Chris Locke and Jenny Sippings for the newsletters, and to all those who volunteered their time.
- Rights of way – Council has established a procedure of annual one-day closures of roads on Sunnyside apart from A Road which is a public right of way, to ensure no rights are lost by default. Access for allotment holders is not affected.
- The co-ordination of working parties has been taken over by Neil and Trish Kennedy on behalf of the committee. Thanks to them. Work has included clearing coppices, sorting out leaf and woodchip piles, renovating the path to the toilet, and replacing signs and noticeboards – thanks particularly to Ted for the last. Volunteers are always needed, for a whole day or just a little time on the given days, lunch is provided at the Tea Hut.
- Trees – Council is awaiting a quotation to remove or trim a number of non-fruit trees, in line with its policy. Council will draw on the allotment reserves for this expenditure. Council is also approaching Network Rail about the removal of trees on their boundary fence. The meeting reflected that there has been a lack of consistency regarding non-fruit trees, and in relation to the establishment of nature plots as opposed to actively cultivated allotments. Andy Dolwin thanked John for his work with

the Council in establishing a clear policy on trees and making progress on its implementation.

- There is no current waiting list; a very few vacant plots on SSO and about 10 on SSN. It was suggested that Council advertise the availability of plots; John to raise this with Council. JE
- Untidy plots – John and a committee member have carried out Inspections of plots three times during the growing season, to check that the Council's tenancy terms are being met, and John has notified Council of untidy plots. Council sends out first and second warning letters, after which time if there is no resolution the tenancy is ended. The aim is for tenants to stay and cultivate their plots, and if they have problems they should contact a committee member.
- There are no SAS calendars for 2014, as the task of producing them has become too onerous. Thanks were offered to Jenny Sippings and Angela Wheeldon for their work in producing the calendars over the last 10 years. Volunteers for producing a calendar for 2015, with support and encouragement from Jenny, were requested.

4/13 To consider and approve the Society's accounts and to consider proposals for expenditure

John Powell, Treasurer, presented the annual accounts, which were unanimously approved (proposed by Ray Phipps, seconded by Adrian Scarborough).

Membership of SAS may increase to £3.50 next year in response to the increase in the membership fee to NSALG, which is increasing from £2.00 to £2.25 for 2014/15.

Suggestions for expenditure included; cost of grass cutting; construction of a large poly tunnel for use by tenants; purchase of a mower which tenants could manage to start and use; hire of grass cutting or other machinery on working party days. The meeting offered thanks to Ted and recognition of his considerable work maintaining grass paths, and John Eaton reminded members' that tenants have a responsibility for maintaining their own paths. It was agreed that Committee will consider buying a suitable mower, e.g. perhaps a battery operated one for which the battery could be charged at home.

The erection of a large club shed and meeting room by SAS on a plot designated for that purpose was discussed. Committee to discuss this further.

5/13 To receive any nominations for officers/committee members

The following officers were nominated:

Chair: John Eaton
Vice-Chair: Lin Phillips
Treasurer: John Powell
Secretary: Jenny Sippings

Nominations for new members of the committee were Cynthia Fulks and Adrian Scarborough. Existing members nominated to continue were Chris Locke, Angela Wheeldon, Wendy Calder, and Andy James.

6/13 To elect of Officers and Committee

The following people were elected to the committee.

Chair: John Eaton
Vice-Chair: Lin Phillips
Treasurer: John Powell
Secretary: Jenny Sippings

Committee Members:

Wendy Calder
Cynthia Fulks
Andy James
Chris Locke
Adrian Scarborough
Angela Wheeldon

7/13 To elect Allotments' representative on Town Council's Allotment Management Team

John Eaton was elected as the Site representative, with Lin Phillips as Deputy.

8/13 To consider future developments

- a) Sunnyside Rural Trust – SRT holds allotments on two types of leases, with 33 on an annual lease and 45 on a 14 year lease, ending in March 2019. Recently SRT has raised with Council the possibility of converting them all to the 14 year lease, in order to plan with the benefit of a greater security of tenure. There was some discussion of this charitable organisation making use of Sunnyside allotments for commercial use, and in the case of some plots on SSO for the purposes of wildlife plots or training plots. While SAS recognised the value of the good work done by SRT, SAS tenants would not wish to be disadvantaged by any changes to the SRT lease arrangements. SRT hold 37 plots on SSO and 41 on SSN. It was suggested that there could be some an arrangements so that SRT gained some additional plots on New, so as to free up some plots on Old. Members were cautious about a conversion of annual leases to longer term leases. It was agreed that John Eaton will find out more about the work of SRT so that he can discuss future developments with SRT and the Council.
- b) Plot for a specific SAS clubhouse/substantial store – A discussion took place about the possibility of such a building being erected, including the possibility of re-using the one recently dismantled and donated to SAS. Committee to consider the issues further, which would include issues of space for access and planning permission.

9/13 Any other business

- Rabbits are living in the wildlife plot on SSO between B and C Roads, affecting the plants on neighbouring plots. Council has recently given permission for shooting on New, and there is a possibility of ferretting. The issue, including the cost of fencing this area in, to be discussed by Committee.
- The wooden hut which houses the SAS toilet is deteriorating and needs refurbishment/replacement; John E has requested a builder to investigate and quote on the work. Committee to pursue this work, which was agreed to be a priority.
- The meeting offered thanks to Ted for all his work for the allotments.

The meeting closed at 11.50 am.

SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF INCOME&EXPENDITURE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2013

INCOME

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>SUBSCRIPTIONS</u> | 225 (267.-) |
| <u>DONATIONS</u> | 7 (11) |
| <u>SEED SCHEME</u> | |
| ORDERS | 884.85 |
| COST TO SAS | <u>741.58</u> |
| PROFIT | 143.27(33) |
| <u>CALENDAR</u> | |
| SALES | 678.- |
| LESS COST | - <u>386.05</u> |
| PROFIT | 291.95(255.) |
| <u>MATERIALS&PRODUCE</u> | |
| SALES | 157.30 (139) |

OPEN DAY

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| REFRESHMENTS | 309.36(176) |
| PRODUCE | 252,- (289) |
| RAFFLE (DONATED) | 166. (117) |
| TOTAL INCOME | <u>727.36</u> |
| LESS EXPENSES | 126.89(30.96) |
| OPEN DAY PROFIT | <u>600.47(551)</u> |
| YEARS INCOME TOTAL | 1424.99 |
| EXPENDITURE | <u>-725.97</u> |
| YEARS PROFIT | £699.02 (178) |

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>PUBLIC LIAB INSCE</u> | 73.90(68.90) |
| <u>SECRETARIAL</u> | 94.42 (34.78) |
| <u>NSALG</u> | 148.- (164.-) |
| <u>MAINTENANCE</u> | 137-22(240) |
| <u>NEWSLETTER</u> | 43.40(46.20) |
| <u>XMAS DRINKS</u> | 16.74 |
| <u>FRIDGE</u> | |
| COST | 164.99 |
| Less Donation | <u>120.-</u> 44-99 |
| HOSPICE | 166.- |
| MISC | <u>1.30</u> |
| EXPENDITURE | £725.97(net) |

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| FUNDS HELD 31/10/12 | 3936.52 |
| FUNDS HELD 31/10/13 | <u>4635.54</u> |
| YEARS INCREASE | 699.02 |

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| FUNDS AT BANK | 4620.64 |
| CASH | 14.90 |
| FUNDS HELD 31/10/13 | <u>4635.54</u> |

AFTER AN INDEPENDENT INSPECTION OF THE BOOKS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS I CAN CONFIRM THAT THE ABOVE FIGURES ACCURATELY REFLECT THE SOCIETIES FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2013

KATE JENKYN
INDEPENDENT CHECKER