

**MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S
18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on
SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 2014
at
SUNNYSIDE RURAL TRUST**

Present:

John Eaton (Chair)
Lin Phillips (Vice-chair) (minutes)
Jenny Sippings (Secretary)
John Powell (Treasurer)
Deirdre Ahern
Wendy Calder
Jane Dickenson
Gary Elkington
Marsha Facey
William Facey
Cynthia Fulks
Jamie Fulks
Geoff Giles
John Goffey
Geoff Halls
Simon Heywood
Andy James
Neil Kennedy
Tricia Kennedy
Christine Locke
Chris O'Callaghan
Ray Phipps
Grace Phipps
Kate Rankin
John Savage

Apologies for Absence:

Phil Biss
Andrew Calderwood
Diana Calderwood
Fiona Duck
Ted Dyer
Freda Earl
Hazel Grimwood
Philippa Jones
Ian Peplow
Helen Russell
Adrian Scarborough
Rachael Scott
Clive Smith
Nanette Street
Tracey Wells
Angela Wheeldon
Jeanne Woodcraft

1/14 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received (see above).

2/14 To approve the minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the AGM held on 30th November 2013 were confirmed and signed.

3/14 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 Neil and Trish Kennedy, 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 Lin, Tina and Cynthia for cleaning the toilet.
- Thanks to Cynthia to having produced the Sunnyside 2015 calendar, with the help of Angela and Scott. – photos are always welcome for the following year, to be sent to Cynthia.

- Trish and Neil continue to co-ordinate the working parties, which are held on 5 days a year, i.e. the first Sundays of October, November, January, February and March. Thanks to all those who have joined in the work, which has included clearing coppices, sorting out the leaf and woodchip piles, and path renovation. There is a list of further work, and it would be good to see new faces, particularly from Sunnyside New, as most of the work for the rest of the year will be on New. No need to come for the whole day, though lunch is provided – an hour or two would be great.
- Allotment Management Team - Council is still working on redrafting the Sunnyside Rural Trust lease, to synchronise the timing of rents and to ensure that the rights of SAS tenants are protected. As reserves are in very good health, rents have not been increased this year.
- Rights of way – Council continues to close all roads on Sunnyside once a year except for A Road, to ensure no rights are lost by default. Access for allotment holders is not affected.
- Trees – Council has removed or trimmed a number of non-fruit trees, in line with policy, and has established a budget for continuing work. The trees on the railway line are still problematic, as council is dependent upon British Rail turning off the power along that stretch before the work can be carried out.
- There is a short waiting list and a few vacant plots Council is in the process of establishing a new database to record this information and the payment of rent
- 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 (i.e., that the whole of every plot should be cultivated, though John takes a generous approach to this). 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 enjoy cultivating their plots, and if they have problems they should contact a committee member.
- Events – the Open Day was a success despite the very wet weather, thanks to all those who helped, especially to Wendy and Angela who co-ordinated all the work. We now look forward to Christmas drinks at the Tea Hut on Sunday 21st December, 12 – 3pm; please bring a plate of food to share.

4/14 To consider and approve the Society's accounts and to consider proposals for expenditure

John Powell, Treasurer, presented the annual accounts, on this his 8th and last year as treasurer. These were unanimously approved, and John was thanked for his work in this role over the years.

John noted that the Open Day was more profitable this year than last, despite the weather. Overall, the balance is £551 down on last year due to the purchase of equipment, no calendar and a donation to the West Watford Allotment Society Defence Fund.

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

5/14 To receive any nominations for officers/committee members

The following officers were nominated:

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

Plus committee members listed below.

6/14 To elect of Officers and Committee

The following people were elected to the committee.

Chair: John Eaton
Vice-Chair: Lin Phillips
Treasurer: Andy James
Secretary: Jenny Sippings
Committee Members:
Wendy Calder
Chris Locke
Adrian Scarborough
Angela Wheeldon
Cynthia Fulks

It was noted that Lin Phillips will fill the post of Vice-Chair for this year only, after which she will step down, so that a volunteer will be needed to take up this post; please talk to Lin or John for details.

Also, Chris Locke would like to pass on the editorship of the newsletter at the end of this year; anyone interested should talk to Chris about what the role entails.

There followed a discussion of how to encourage more committee members, especially more engagement from tenants on Sunnyside New. Suggestions included holding a special event on New, e.g. a tasting, or holding the Open Day on New, or changing the date of the AGM from a Saturday. Jenny will analyse the ratio of membership of SAS, Old and New. The issue to be considered further by Committee and raised in the newsletter.

7/14 To elect Allotments' representative on Town Council's Allotment Management Team

John Eaton was elected as the Site representative, with Jenny Sippings or any other committee member as Deputy.

8/14 To consider future developments

- a) The proposal for a SAS clubhouse/substantial store was considered by Committee following the last AGM, but issues of maintenance, security and insurance were prohibitive.
- b) Council was considering a system of billing 25% of tenants each quarter, which John has objected to.
- c) Bonfires – there have been complaints from neighbours; tenants were reminded to manage their bonfires and to choose windless days.
- d) Rabbits – the perimeter of the Sunnyside site is mostly fenced. Council was considering additional fencing around individual plots, but this would create problems for mowing of paths. If the problem persists, Council can arrange for a cull by shooting.
- e) Rats – if tenants spot these pests, please report to Committee (or Stripey).
- f) Skip for disposal of metal scrap – in the past, the skip became filled with other materials which had to be hand sorted. Tenants are invited to put metal waste at the end of their plot and advise a member of the Committee. Clive will collect and remove – Chris will note this in the newsletter.
- g) Plot numbers – John Powell has contributed some walnut discs, free to members, for them to paint their plot numbers on for display.

9/14 Any other business

- It was noted that grass cutting is very difficult on paths which have plants or other items hanging over – tenants were reminded to cut back plants and remove other items. Compost heaps should be built back from the paths to allow for mowing.
- Wildlife plot – the boundaries are unclear and brambles have overgrown onto neighbouring plot. The work to clear and re-number will be added to the working party list.
- Woodchip and manure on SSN – Council to be asked for a sign to contractors not to bring any more without prior clearance from committee. Angela is producing an interim sign.
- Tenants were asked to send in the names of contractors coming onto the allotment site to committee, as Council will be contacting them all to ensure they have public liability insurance.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.

SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE YEAR ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2014

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
SUBSCRIPTIONS	271.00 (225.00)	PUBLIC LIABILITY INS	68.90 (73.00)
DONATIONS	37.50 (7.00)	NSALG	198.00
<u>SEED SCHEME</u>		SECRETARIAL	24.78 (94.00)
ORDERS	982.33 (884.00)	MAINTENANCE	36.49 (137.00)
COST	-831.26 (741.00)	EQUIPMENT	172.44
PROFIT	<u>151.07</u>	NEWSLETTER	51.00 (43.00)
		<u>DONATIONS</u>	
<u>CLUB SALES</u>		SSRT	25.00
MATERIALS	39.00	WATFORD ALLOTMENT	
PRODUCE	101.00	APPEAL	200.00
		HOSPICE	62.00
<u>OPEN DAY</u>		SARAH MARSHALL	62.00
PRODUCE	369.74 (252.00)		<u>349.00</u>
REFRESHMENTS	213.87 (309.00)	XMAS DRINKS	35.94 (16.00)
RAFFLE	124.00 (166.00)	MISC	115.55
	<u>707.61</u>		
EXPENSES	58,30		1002.62 (726.00)
PROFIT OPEN DAY	<u>649.31</u>		<u>(600.00)</u>
		BANK BALANCE 31.OCT 2014	
			£4837.32
TOTAL	1248.88		
LESS EXPENSES	1052.10		
YEARS PROFIT	196.78 (699.00)		

Having examined the books and supporting documents I can confirm that they reflect the Societies position as at 31October 2014

Kate Jenkyns