

**MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 1997 AT
THE UNITED REFORM CHURCH HALL, BERKHAMSTED.**

Present:

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|---------------------|-----------|
| Ted Dyer | Chairman |
| Sharon Longley | Secretary |
| John Savage | Treasurer |
| Kit Owen | |
| Fiona Duck | |
| George Brown | |
| Bridget Brown | |
| Peter Chapman | |
| Ray Cheshire | |
| John Pilkington | |
| Graham Hall | |
| Pete Phizackerley | |
| Tom Whyte | |
| Natalija Mihailovic | |
| Bert Roberts | |
| Glynis Scaramuzza | |
| David King | |
| Olga Lassman | |
| Peter Block | |
| Phil Andrews | |
| Jenny Sippings | |
| Clive Smith | |

Apologies received from:

J Wood
A Wheeldon
P Biss
R Scott
L Rolls
R Burnett
S Taylor

1. **Approve Minutes of Last Meeting**

There being no comments, the Minutes of the last AGM were approved by the meeting.

2. Election/Re-election of Officers

Kit Owen was invited to assume the role of Chair for this item, as it was deemed inappropriate for Ted Dyer as the current Chairman to do so.

The Committee were asked if any member wished to stand down. No-one declined to continue in the role.

The meeting was asked if they were happy for the existing Committee to stand again and represent them. All were in agreement so, therefore, the Committee were re-elected with the possible exception of Ken Harbord who was not present at the meeting. The meeting was asked if anyone else wished to become a member of the Committee but there were no takers. (Ken Harbord has since signified his willingness to continue).

3. Report on Discussions with Council

The Society was formed for a number of purposes, one of them to be a "ginger group" to give the tenants a greater say and to pursue issues tenants felt would be of benefit to them.

Discussion have been held with the Council regarding the taking over of the management of the site on Sunnyside. Following a meeting of the Environment Committee, a further meeting between K Duvall, P Ginger and T Dyer was arranged to go through some of the questions being raised by the Society. This meeting subsequently took place on 30th September, 1997 at which it was decided that an amended paper would be produced by K Duvall which would be put forward to the Finance and Policy Committee as a debate issue. P Ginger suggested that they would be more in favour of as Society that manages the allotments but is uncertain as to how this would be defined. T Dyer would be in favour of this arrangement so long as the Society was given reasonable tenure of the land. T Dyer will be attending the Finance and Policy Committee Meeting, which he stated was open to all members of the public.

T Dyer then asked the meeting for their views on what they would wish the Society to do on their behalf. Did the tenants wish the Society to examine/arrange such issues as:

- acquisition of seeds at a discount
- social activities
- accessibility of water on the site
- working parties to clean up unused gardens
- shared use of machinery

T Dyer and P Chapman are currently watching with interest the outcome of a request by representatives of the Delfield site for an additional water tank. So far the Council seem to be receptive, however, this means that the Delfield tenants have to dig the necessary hole for this themselves. If this goes ahead, T Dyer will raise the question of the provision of additional water tanks on Sunnyside with the Council.

4. **Rents**

It was reported that there would be no increase in allotment rents for the next year. Ray Cheshire sought clarification of the position regarding senior citizen discounts on plot rental. It was stated that the Council had been advised that it was illegal for them to grant a discount for senior citizens unless special circumstances could be established. The Council had decided to leave matters as they are for this allotment year and review their position prior to September 1998. They did not wish to introduce a "means test" and it is possible the discount would have to be withdrawn.

5. **Garden Clearance**

T Dyer stated that as a Society we should show we care about the gardens and make them more attractive to potential tenants. Questions were raised about the hiring of machinery for clearance purposes and the provision by the Council of this or even provide funds. Unfortunately this was unlikely to happen and we do not have the monies available from the £1 fees paid at the last AGM. However, notices will be put up suggesting working parties in order to get something started.

6. **Fees**

It was proposed by George Brown that the £1 fee be increased to £2 and this was seconded by Ray Cheshire. The Rules of the Society will be amended to show this increase and copies will be forthcoming, and the amended page would be circulated to the members.

7. **Car Parking**

The Society has been "told off" for making some of the unused gardens into car parking spaces without authority. The Society wrote to the Council about their intentions to do this (e.g. A2 Sunnyside Old), and Plot 29 on Sunnyside New. We now have approval from the Council to go ahead.

8. Dogs

The subject of dogs was raised. People are experiencing problems with owners not keeping their animals under control and fouling paths or gardens. The Society is to write to the Council requesting that further notices be put up for dog owners about their responsibilities.

9. Sunnyside Church

The Society is to write to Sunnyside Church requesting that their members do not block the allotment entrance gates as this stops deliveries etc being made and access for tenants when necessary.

10. Accounts

John Savage presented the Accounts:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Subs last year raised | £38.00 |
| Meeting room for AGM - Nov 97 | £25.00 |
| Admin Costs | £2.20 |
| Total monies left | £10.80 |

George Brown has audited the Society's accounts and the Committee would like to thank him and hope that he will continue to do this in the foreseeable future. A copy of the Accounts will be attached to the next Newsletter.

11. Any Other Business

Bonfires: Tenants were asked to consider the residents of The Cedars and wind direction before lighting bonfires. This was also mentioned in the Society's Newsletter issued in October.

Rubbish Removal: The Society is to write to the Council to ask if they will remove the old rubbish e.g. iron etc from the site.

Newsletter: People found this interesting and would like to have more of them.

Future Meetings: We are having difficulty in attracting more tenants to meetings and it was asked if we should perhaps hold them on a different day other than Saturday. However, it was decided to persevere with Saturdays.

Allotment Reps: T Dyer and P Chapman asked if it was the wish of the meeting for them to continue as Allotment Reps and this was agreed. Graham Hall asked if it was possible for there to be two Reps for Sunnyside New, but this would have to be put before the Council. Spiros Taylor is currently the sole Rep for Sunnyside New.

The Sunnyside Allotment Society

Accounts for Financial Year ended 31 October 1997

| <u>Income</u> | | <u>Expenditure</u> | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Subscriptions | £38.00 | Expenses | £2.20 |
| Total | <u>£38.00</u> | Total | <u>£2.20</u> |
| | | Excess of income over expenditure | £35.80 |

Balance sheet at 31 October 1997

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Cash in hand | £35.80 |
|--------------|--------|

Represented by:-

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Accumulated fund at beginning of year | Nil |
|---------------------------------------|-----|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Excess of income over expenditure | <u>£35.80</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|

| |
|---------------|
| <u>£35.80</u> |
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I certify that the foregoing statement of accounts is correct.

Hon Treasurer

I certify that the above accounts are in accordance with the books of account and the information and explanations given to me.

Hon Auditor