

**MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S
19TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on
SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2015
at 10.30am at
SUNNYSIDE RURAL TRUST**

Present:

John Eaton (Chair)
Lin Phillips (Vice-chair)
Jenny Sippings (Secretary)
Andy James (Treasurer)
Cynthia Fulks (Minutes)
John Goffey
Clive Smith
Jane Dickenson
Christine Locke
Marsha Facey
William Facey
Deirdre Ahern
Jamie Fulks
Diane Calderwood
Andrew Calderwood
Geoff Halls
Simon Heywood
Peter Block
Neil Kennedy
Tricia Kennedy
Phil Mix
Diane Mix
Nigel Swatridge
John Priestley
Kate Rankin
Philippa Jones

Apologies for Absence:

Phil Biss
Andy Dolwin
Pam Moss
Fiona Duck
Ted Dyer
Freda Earl
Debbie Crooks
John Powell
Gary Elkington
Helen Russell
Deidre Ahern
Alan Sewell
Ray Phipps
Grace Phipps
Wendy Calder
Angela Wheeldon
Jeanne Woodcraft
Adrian Scarborough

1/15 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received (see above).

2/15 To approve the minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the AGM held on 29th November 2014 were confirmed and signed.

3/15 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 Andy James who has taken over from John Powell as treasurer and from Chris O'Callaghan to handle the seed order. Lin Phillips who has taken over as editor of the newsletter from Chris Locke and thanks to Lin, Tina and Cynthia for cleaning the toilet on a monthly rota basis.
- Thanks to Cynthia Fulks and Angela Wheeldon for producing the Sunnyside 2016 calendar, with the help of Scott.
- John thanked Trish and Neil Kennedy for continuing to co-ordinate the working parties on behalf of the committee; these are held during the winter months on Sundays. However, if volunteers are not available on Sundays work can be done at other times. The work is generally light with Neil co-ordinating the more onerous tasks dependant on the ability of the volunteers available. Neil publishes the jobs to be done 2 weeks in advance and these are generally posted on the notice boards, volunteers are always required and not necessarily for the whole day but for whatever time tenants can spare. When work is done on the coppices the volunteers get first refusal of the bean sticks. Past work has included clearing coppices, sorting out leaf and woodchip piles and path renovation.
- Jamie Fulks and Clive Smith were thanked for their excellent work of renovating the toilet and work continues on clearing the site for the SAS shed, wood rack, manure bay and extra car parking.
- The role of the Committee was outlined by John as representing all plot holders and as a voice on the Council's Allotment Management Team to discuss rents and other allotment issues as appropriate. Other jobs undertaken are the management of water usage, letting plots and advising tenants of the council's allotment requirements. All social activities are organised by the committee with help from other volunteers. Volunteers for the society's committee are always welcome and anyone interested should speak to any current committee member for further details. Anyone who has an interest in joining the committee in the future can come along and observe a meeting by first making arrangements with Jenny Sippings, there are 6 meetings per year.
- Allotment Management Team - Council is still working on the new computerised information system which, when complete will be an improvement on the old system. As financial reserves are in very good health, rents remain unchanged this year and there are some reserves in the Council's accounts for allotment funds. Rental income currently exceeds costs and the excess goes into reserve. AMT meetings are held three monthly with John representing the SAS or Jenny/Lin deputising in his absence.
- 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. Neighbours can obtain permission from the council to use access from allotment land in exceptional circumstances.
- Trees – Council has continued to remove or trim a number of non-fruit trees, in line with policy, and has established a budget for continuing work. Trees have been cut down and the next stage is to clear the stumps – this is an ongoing project with digger hire costs being shared between the society and the council.
- Waiting List - There is a short waiting list and a few vacant plots on SSN. The wood pile will eventually be cleared on SSN which will allow this plot to be let in the future.

- Untidy plots – John and Jenny have carried out inspections of plots 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 summer Open Day was again a success, 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 20th December, 12 – 3pm; please bring a plate of food to share.
- NSALG – We receive 5 copies of this magazine which is now much improved and is available from the tea hut for members to borrow. They also have a very informative website and to gain access to the members only section members should email jenny@sunnysideallotments.org.uk for username and password.
- Seed Orders – These will be available in 3 weeks and can be collected from Andy James. The potatoes will be delivered later and any orders for fruit trees will go direct to plot holders.

4/15 To consider and approve the Society's accounts and to consider proposals for expenditure

Andy James, Treasurer, presented the annual accounts, on this his 1st year as treasurer. These were unanimously approved, and Andy was thanked for his work in this role over the year.

Andy compared the Open Day income/expenditure of this year and last year and will provide a more detailed report in future as he now has the accounts computerised.

Paid up membership of the SAS was down this year even though tenancies are up, the newsletter will be used to promote the benefits of belonging to the society, together with the substantial benefits to both tenants and society of the seed scheme.

5/15 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

John Goffey was nominated as a new committee member plus committee members listed below.

6/15 To elect 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

John Goffey was duly elected as a new member.

There followed a discussion of how to encourage more committee members, especially more engagement from tenants on Sunnyside New. Modern communication needs to be employed with an emphasis on social media via a Facebook page. Jonathan Priestley may be interested in this project and becoming a committee member in the future when he has more experience of the workings of the allotment.

7/15 To elect Allotments' representative on Town Council's Allotment Management Team

John Eaton was elected as the site representative, with Lin Phillips as the deputy and Jenny Sippings as the substitute.

8/15 To consider future developments

- a) Roadway safety – there should be no digging down for manure heaps and where this has happened the sides should be shored up to protect pedestrians and traffic on the roadways.
- b) During wet weather conditions small stones can be put on the roadways to help traction.
- c) An article in the NSALG newsletter had noted that several other allotment sites had been made a Community Asset. Simon Heywood volunteered to look into the scope of this action and if it would be applicable to Sunnyside.

9/15 Any other business

- Discussion took place about consideration for a permanent plot on both SSN and SSO to enable us to spread the open day over both sites more conveniently.
- Philippa Jones volunteered to replace Lin Phillips on the toilet cleaning rota, this was gratefully accepted.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.

SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Statement of accounts Year Ending 31 October 2015

Opening Balance £4,837.32

INCOME

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Subscriptions | 169.50 (271) |
| Calendar Sales | 534.00 |
| Produce Sales | 193.10 (101) |
| Donations | 67.00 (37) |
| Material Sales | 83.90 (39) |
| Seed Orders | 939.30 (982) |

OPEN DAY

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Refreshments | 279.26 (214) |
| Produce | 396.65 (370) |
| Raffle | 128.00 (124) |

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Insurance | 73.90 (69) |
| NSALG affiliation | 132.50 (198) |
| Printing and Copying (inc Calendar printing) | 503.70 |
| Seed Order payment to Kings | 757.19 (831) |

DONATIONS

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Hospice (raffle) | 128.00 (62) |
| Watford Allotments | 50.00 (200) |

EXPENSES

| | |
|---|--------|
| Open Day | 122.85 |
| Other (inc Xmas drinks and general maintenance) | 249.20 |

TOTAL INCOME

2,790.71

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

2,017.34

Note – profit on seed scheme 182.11 (151)

Income less expenditure 773.37

Balance at bank 31/10/15 £5,610.69

Verified as a true reflection of the Society's financial
position at 31 October 2015

Jane Hughes FCCA