



MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S 26th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on

Saturday 4 February 2023, at 10.30 am at the Sunnyside Rural Trust

Present:

John Eaton (Chair)
Andy James (Treasurer)
Jenny Sippings (Secretary – Minutes)
Cynthia Fulks
John Goffey
Kate Rankin
Clive Smith
Diana Ball
Ian Peplow
Sue Dabbagh
Paul Ham
Adrian Scarborough
Peter Block
Denre Bruins
Charlotte Cowell
Neil Kennedy
Tricia Kennedy
David Grundy
Judy Grundy
John Driver
Joanna Bryant
Fiona Naylor
Steve Atkinson
Tom Hall
Lilly Black
Chris Locke
Jamie Fulks

Apologies for Absence:

Jane Dickenson
Andy Dolwin
Jo Banks
Clive M
Juliet Richmond
Angela Wheeldon
Tony Ayles
Jeff Naylor
Fiona Duck
Vernon Garnham

John Eaton welcomed everybody to the meeting

1/23 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received (see above).

2/23 To approve the minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the virtual AGM held in March 2022 were approved as a true record, apart from Andy James missing from list of attendees.

3/23 To receive the Chairman's report

John Eaton thanked committee and other volunteers. Jeanne is standing down from the committee and also Lin who has edited the Newsletter but is now standing down after 8 years. She will be succeeded by Clive M and Julie Woodford. Our Secretary Jenny publishes the Newsletter and generally holds things together. A rota of volunteers clean the toilet (Fiona, Juliet, Cynthia and Allison) John appealed for new volunteers to go on the rota and Lilly Black. Jo Bryant and David Thomas volunteered. Jo also offered to clear the area around the toilet to make it look nice.

The committee undertakes various tasks eg liaising with the council re work programmes, letting plots (Diana Ball has taken over letting from Geoff Halls), inspecting plots, tenant events, water management, organising working parties etc. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome to observe a committee meeting.

John Goffey coordinates the working party work on behalf of the committee. Thanks to them and the plot holders who have turned up through the year. Work has included: clearing coppices and plots, hedge trimming, path renovation. There is a list of future work for the general good for which volunteers are necessary (not just the same old faces). Please come for whatever amount of time you can spare. There is usually lunch, thanks to Kate and other soup makers. John reminded attendees that tasks can be done between working parties if tenants cannot come.

The council's Allotment Working Group meets 3 or 4 times a year. The increased rent introduced September 2021 covered council allotment admin costs, but also produced a surplus as suspected. However there is a more positive attitude to spending: gate repairs, road surface, shoring up roadway, water system extension, tree work etc

Other issues discussed include dog fouling, including aggressive behaviour by dog owners and break-ins etc.

The Council continues with annual one-day closures to confirm the Council's rights of way and to ensure that no-one else can gain rights by default. Access for allotment holders is not affected. Advance notice of closure does not need to be given.

The council has a budget for continuing work to remove or trim non-fruit trees where necessary.

There is a long waiting list and there are few vacant plots. Some waiting people from other sites have joined our list.

Jenny and Diana inspect plots about three times a year in order to see that the Council's tenancy terms are being met. People experiencing problems should contact a committee member. In general, tenants should keep plots clear of junk. The Council are tightening their procedures on untidy plots and late rent payments.

The committee organised a number of events for tenants this year including:

- Jubilee Party buffet (sangria by Steve, food organised by Kate and Diana, Jenny and Angela.)
- We had a successful Open Day co-ordinated by Kate.
- Christmas drinks were rained off.
- Proposal for Coronation event.

Future developments include:

- Collection of rubbish (not metal)
- Collection of metal on a designated day to be weighed in
- Completion tea hut area including installation of solar panel for 12v fridge
- Wood heap storage to be completed.

LB asked about tyres. CS mentioned not bringing chipboard, MDF and laminated wood as not suitable for outdoor use.

The Jubilee coppice is now managed by SRT, and the Millennium coppice will now have a 4 year rotation. Clive also thanked Bernard who has coppiced the hazel for the past few years. Also the SAS would like to thank the boys working towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards by doing voluntary clearance work on the allotment sites.

4/23 To consider and approve the Society's accounts and to consider proposals for expenditure

The accounts for 2022 were circulated ahead of the meeting.

Andy mentioned the charitable donation that is usually made annually. Not much was collected at the Open Day but the society gave £100 each to Pepper and the Hospice.

Seed orders were not as high this year as last (about 30 orders this year).

The accounts were accepted as a true record.

Proposed by: Jane Dickenson

Seconded by: Steve Atkinson

5/23 To receive any nominations for officers/committee members

The following officers were nominated:

Chair: John Eaton

Treasurer: Andy James

Secretary: Jenny Sippings

The position of Vice Chair remains vacant.

All remaining current committee members seek re-election. John Eaton said he would continue as Chairman for one last year.

Fiona Naylor said she would think about joining the committee after looking at the task list.

6/23 To elect Officers and Committee

The following people were elected to the committee by group election:

Chair: John Eaton

Treasurer: Andy James

Secretary: Jenny Sippings

Committee Members:

Angela Wheeldon

John Goffey

Kate Rankin

Diana Ball

Steve Atkinson

Clive M / Julie Woodford

The Chairman re-emphasised that any tenant considering joining the committee can observe at a committee meeting by prior arrangement with the Secretary. Meetings are held in the council chambers quarterly usually on a Tuesday at 6pm.

7/23 To elect Allotments' representative on Town Council's Allotment Management Team

John Eaton was elected as the site representative, and Diana Ball and Jenny Sippings as deputies.

8/23 To consider future developments

As listed above in the chairman's report and:

- Continuing work on the roadways

DG suggested paying to clear overgrown plots. *The SRT are already doing this on some plots paid by the council.*

CS suggested that the council should take a deposit when new tenants join. This could be an incentive to tenants not to leave plots in an unlettable state when they give up. *However this has been suggested to the council in the past and they were not interested.*

JE also commented on the amount of stuff being left on plots at the end of tenancies. LB asked if this should be made clear to new tenants. JS mentioned that the society has drawn up a welcome email with links to useful information on the website. Initially this will be sent to all tenants and subsequently to new tenants.

FN suggested photos should be taken of plots before letting to a new tenant. JS mentioned that many plots are still not numbered.

IP suggested in the newsletter we could have the 'plot of the month' to be positive rather than negative.

PH raised question of wood chip. JE responded that tenants could arrange their own delivery. SRT do not mind if tenants take wood chip from their pile on C Road. TK also mentioned that there are a lot of logs up there that tenants could take.

The issue of illegal dumping of wood chip used to be a problem and CS mentioned that in some areas of the country that allotment sites are gated and locked. JG suggested that we could chip up old hazel coppice arisings.

PH who is a tenant next to the wildlife plot with the brambles asked if we could do a project to encourage biodiversity. SA mentioned the need for active management of the wildlife plots.

TK raised the issue of the control of rats on C road and elsewhere. Tenants need to turn their compost regularly and not put kitchen scraps or items like pumpkin seeds in their compost.

DB thanked Clive S for all the work he does for the society over and above.

9/23 Any other business

The meeting closed at 11.40 am.



Sunnyside Allotment Society

Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31 December 2022

Where there is a direct comparison, 2021 figures are shown in brackets

Opening Balance **£5,426.40**

INCOME

Subscriptions	£355.00	(388)
Produce Sales	£52.08	(10)
Material and Tool Sales	£41.00	(146)
Seed Order	£1,316.35	(1551)
Jubilee Picnic *	£64.00	(152)
Donations	£18.00	(170)
Open Day	£830.10	

* Costs compared with
Summer Picnic in 2021

EXPENDITURE

Insurance	£83.64	(84)
NSALG affiliation	£261.00	(291)
Seed Order	£1,119.17	(1287)
Tea Hut & Toilet costs	£0.00	(21)
Tea Hut project	£525.17	(482)
Printing and postage	£40.71	
Other expenses	£140.53	(127)
Jubilee picnic costs *	£269.40	(82)
Donations to Charity	£200.00	
Open Day costs	£148.65	

TOTAL INCOME £2,676.53 (3241)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £2,788.27 (3022)

Income less expenditure -£111.74 (219)

Closing Balance **£5,314.66**

Verified as a true reflection of the society's financial position at 31 December 2022

Jane Hughes FCCA

18/11/23