



MINUTES OF SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on

Saturday 27 January 2024, at 10.30 am at the Sunnyside Rural Trust

Present:

John Eaton (Chair)
Andy James (Treasurer)
Jenny Sippings (Secretary – Minutes)
Clive M
Rosemary Burnett
Kate Rankin
Clive Smith
Diana Ball
Ian Peplow
Helen Harker
Vernon Garnham
Adrian Scarborough
Peter Block
Denre Bruins
Charlotte Cowell
Neil Kennedy
Tricia Kennedy
Lesley Johnson
Andy Dolwin
Tom Hall
Gemma Hall
Lin Phillips
Simon Nicolle
Will Facey
Marsha Facey
Jeanne Woodcraft
Jo Banks
Irene Murray
Jackie Thomasen
Steve Atkinson
John Goffey

Apologies for Absence:

Jane Dickenson
Lilly Black
Jo Banks
Sarah Marshall
Juliet Richmond
Angela Wheeldon
Tony Ayles
Jeff Naylor
Fiona Duck
Vernon Garnham
Helen Russell
Richard Russell

John Eaton welcomed everybody to the meeting

1/24 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received (see above).

2/24 To approve the minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the AGM held in January 2023 were approved as a true record.

3/24 To receive the Chairman's report

John Eaton thanked committee and other volunteers. This year Steve has stood down. Clive M and Julie Woodford have taken over the editorship of the Newsletter from Lin and are settling into the role. Our Secretary Jenny distributes the Newsletter and generally holds things together. A rota of volunteers clean the toilet Juliet, Joanna, Lily and David.

The committee undertakes various tasks eg liaising with the council re work programmes, letting plots, 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, wildlife areas and plots, hedge trimming, road/path renovation, tea hut area, Sunnyside New carpark. 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.

The council's Allotment Working Group meets 3 or 4 times a year. The increased rent introduced September 2021 covered council allotment admin costs, and this year maintenance costs have increased so future rent increases are possible. The council's approach to tree work may also affect rent/reserves.

Other issues discussed include dog fouling, including aggressive behaviour by dog owners and break-ins etc. The council has placed wild life cameras in one or two areas as have the committee and individual tenants.

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:

- Coronation Party buffet
- We had a successful Open Day co-ordinated by Kate.
- Christmas drinks went ahead in the tea hut area.

Future developments include:

- Complete tea hut area solar fridge now working, but lighting to be installed in tea hut and under canopy.
- Wood heap storage to be completed.
- Change of chairman, but John is staying on committee for continuity.

4/24 To consider and approve the Society's accounts and to consider proposals for expenditure

Andy James reported that the council paid for the solar panel/tea hut project.

Open Day 2023 less cakes were sold.

The seed order was lower than the previous year. There were some issues with the online catalogue, although there hard copies at the tea hut.

Trish asked whether it was possible for individuals to order online. This would entail Andy registering everyone online. Andy checks all order forms. Simon thanked Andy for doing the seed order.

There was a 10 year catch up on webhosting this year which had not been claimed for.

The surplus for the year was £426.92

Closing balance £5741.58.

See full statement of accounts below.

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This year the council collected the subs on behalf the Society and most tenants paid. Paying the sub gives PLI cover to individual tenants and the eligibility to take part in the seed order.

The accounts were accepted as a true record.

Proposed by: Will Facey

Seconded by: Ian Peplow

5/24 To receive any nominations for officers/committee members

The following officers were nominated:

Chair: Diana Ball

Treasurer: Andy James

Secretary: Jenny Sippings

The position of Vice Chair remains vacant.

All remaining current committee members seek re-election.

6/24 To elect Officers and Committee

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

Chair: Diana Ball
Treasurer: Andy James
Secretary: Jenny Sippings

Committee Members:

Angela Wheeldon
John Goffey
John Eaton
Kate Rankin
Diana Ball
Clive M / Julie Woodford
Tom Hall proposed by Clive M and seconded by Ian Peplow.

These nominations were proposed by Adrian Scarborough and seconded by Lin Phillips and elected en bloque.

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.

7/24 To elect Allotments' representative on Town Council's Allotment Management Team

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

Proposed by Neil Kennedy and seconded by Ian Peplow.

John described the Allotment Working Group (AWG) as being the link between the council and allotment sites in the town. Discussions take place on untidy plots, rents, accounts etc. The councillors on the group change quite often apart from Garrick Stephens. Trish asked whether allotments were discussed at other council meetings and Neil asked whether it was possible to see the tree survey. However individual trees are not identifiable on the report.

John E reminded everyone that there is a defibrillator on the outside of the SRT building.

8/24 To consider future developments

As listed above in the chairman's report and:

- Continuing work on the roadways
- Relocate water pipe and tap to the tea hut
- Future of wild life areas
- Adrian suggested an area for stones

It was reported that SSN top road has been churned by a vehicle trying to turn around (SRT?).

A discussion also took place on vermin. The following suggestions were made:

- Keep turning compost heaps
- Use humane traps
- Not put food scraps on compost heaps or pumpkin seeds.

Bonfires should be rare and only dry materials burnt under supervision. In the winter the communal plot will be used for the occasional bonfire. Facebook could be used to advertise the date of next bonfire, but close to the date of the next working party. It should really be a benefit for working party volunteers.

9/24 Any other business

The playgroup need advice on how to improve their plot. Adrian and Clive offered to help out.

Lin proposed a thanks to John Eaton and Diana presented him with a gift card.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.



Sunnyside Allotment Society

Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31 December 2023

Where there is a direct comparison, 2022 figures are shown in brackets

Opening Balance **£5,314.66**

INCOME

Subscriptions	£368.00	(355)
Produce Sales	£27.70	(52)
Material and Donations	£62.00	(41)
Seed Order	£1,011.45	(1316)
Open Day	£1,045.05	(830)
Refund from Town Council *	£856.13	

EXPENDITURE

Insurance	£102.32	(84)
NSALG affiliation	£282.00	(261)
Seed Order	£879.12	(1119)
Tea Hut & Toilet costs	£54.85	(0)
Tea Hut project	£720.98	(525)
Open Day Expenses	£103.29	(149)
Donations to Charity	£250.00	(200)
Other expenses	£210.06	(141)
Web Hosting Costs **	£340.79	

TOTAL INCOME **£3,370.33** (2677)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE **£2,943.41** (2788)

Income less expenditure **£426.92** (-112)

Closing Balance **£5,741.58**

* Refund includes £300 spent in 2022-3

** Includes historic costs

Verified as a true reflection of the society's financial position at 31 December 2023

J Hughes

Jane Hughes

12/1/24