

**The Somersham and District
Smallholding and Allotment Association Limited**
Registered under the Co-operative & Community Benefit Societies 2014
www.somersham-allotment-association.co.uk

Meeting title:
General Allotment
Business
Location:
Centurion Club,
Somersham
Date:
11 December 2018
Time:
1930 - 2105

Present:	Vicky Moseley Clive Phillips Andy Bell Bob Peggs Sabine Prideaux Jim Daddy Greg Wyss	Secretary	VM CP AB BP SP JD GW
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Apologies:

1.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	VM	
2.	Minutes from Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes approved by the Committee. 	All	
3.	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Hinkins and Mark Neal resigned from the committee after the last meeting. AB mentioned he had spoken to RH and Alan Underwood and said both were welcome back anytime, should they feel they want to. • BP has removed the KS pump head and capped it. He will refurbish the pump head and refit it in the spring. BP asked VM to find out where the pump spares kits are – from the accounts it appears six spare kits were ordered last year. VM to check with GP and PP who has the spares. • BP said he asked Mark Neal for the keys to the containers. MN had been storing mowers in there which have since been removed. VM to ask who has the keys. • BP said association owns the grass topper/flail mower – where is it? Association paid £55 to repair it last year. VM to find out. • AB mentioned the post borer, BP says this is RH's personal property, not the associations. • VM to ask RH and GP for the asset register that was mentioned by them at AGM. • Footpath issues response was discussed. VM said we have received footpath modification orders from the council but these are on their waiting list and will take a couple of years for them to get around to. AB said it was better to let sleeping dogs lie while the council determine who owns the trackways. • AB said that the main KS gate should not be removed, it is key to the security of the site and the houses that back on to the allotments. 	VM VM VM VM	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB mentioned that access through the “red gate” had always been maintained, the built in chicane to the side of the gate is tantamount to allowing access. The section of footpath to be added is only small anyway. • The allotment land was given by the community, for the community and as such we do not feel we should be restricting access and should encourage more community spirit. • BP mentioned that some plots had lost fruit but that this has always been an issue and will always be an issue. BP is reluctant to dismiss the security issue, and discussion was had over what we can do to show we are taking it seriously. • CP said that if anyone wants to steal the fruit they will do, whether it is fenced off or not. • AB said we can offer the plotholders affected posts and wire allowing them to close off the front of their plots. This will stop dogs running on them. AB said he would mention this to Chris Mortlock who is one of the worst affected, and BP said he will speak to Steve Cooper. <p>Jim Daddy, Greg Wyss and Sabine Prideaux were put forward to be elected to the committee by Andy Bell, seconded by Bob Peggs and all were voted on unanimously. It was agreed not to assign roles to members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VM mentioned that Andy Notman has offered to maintain the website. All agreed that this was a good idea, he has lots of experience and had the presence of mind to save the electronic copy of the rule book before the other site was taken down by Geoff. New site can include minutes, photographs, history, for sale/wants page • BP raised concerns about the risks associated with having toilets on the site. It costs £72 to have them cleaned and this was only done once last year. They are not designed to be left for months at a time and the association has a duty of care to have them cleaned regularly to manage the risks. Do the toilets have a future? Although in principle it is a good idea, they should be cleaned weekly which would cost over £3500 a year – taking up nearly all rent monies received. GW said we should look into the costs of cleaning them and allow members to vote on what they would like to happen. Are the toilets well used? Management of the asset should have been taken into account when they were purchased, with a risk assessment of how many people use them and how often. SP noted that they are never clean and sometimes left in a disgusting state. BP stated that the association would be liable for any infections or incidents that occurred because of the toilets. 		
4.	<p>Allocation of Plots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS22a to be allocated to Chris Eyre – no husbandry to be paid on the proviso that he clears it himself. 	VM	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB said he was meeting Ben Giglio on Sunday to show him CF5&6 – he is to be offered the plots rent free for a year and with no husbandry to be paid, again on the proviso that he clears the plots. Ben Giglio will have to pay share money and key deposit, all agreed that this was fine due to the exceptionally poor state of the plots. <p>Dirty Plots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andy Ray on CF5&6 has received his termination of tenancy notice. JD mentioned that CF39 is a bit of a dumping ground. SP mentioned that KS11c hasn't done anything to the plot since they took it on. It was noted that some tyres had been dumped on plot CF14 since old committee resigned. <p>VM mentioned that Ollie Peacock, Lynne Burrows and Daryl Stansfield still owe rent. – since meeting Ollie Peacock has confirmed to JD that he will be giving up.</p>		
5.	<p>Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS38 has only been partly cleared – will take a lot of clearing up. The front will need scraping with a bucket, rubble could be used for roadway at top of CF. As mentioned before BP will fix the pump. BP can get more padlocks but we need to know the key number, or we can send off a lock for them to reverse engineer. SP said she was happy to do any weedkilling as needed. 		
6.	<p>Site Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing to report. –Since the meeting the issue of hare coursing has been raised. This is to be discussed in January. 		
7.	<p>A.O.B.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VM passed around copies of RH's letter to the committee requesting a formal thank you to Geoff Parish in recognition of his efforts as chairman. It was agreed that this would be inappropriate at this time. BP asked if we need to keep all of CF14 for the association. It was previously used to grow pine trees so the soil needed time to recover. It was agreed to keep it for now, and if we ever have a waiting list we can re-visit the issue. KS1 could also be cleared easily if we were ever pushed for space. BP raised his idea of tendering maintenance to ploholders where we could ask people what they would charge for rotivating a plot, or clearing weeds etc. The association would then pay members for clearance work. It was noted that charges paid in the past were not consistent, with some being paid almost twice as much as others for the same work. AB asked all members to have a think about the website and how we can make it as effective as possible. 		

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Meeting Closed at: 9.05

Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th January 2019 – 7.30pm