

8 August 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes - Approved

PRESENT: Maggy Meade-King (MMK); Rita Drobner (RD); Hinchee Hung (HH); Sally Jones (SJones); Geoff Kemball-Cook (GKC), Don Adams (DA), Ann Lloyd (AL)

Meeting Chair: GKC

Note Taker: AL

1. Apologies

Sara Jolly (SJolly)

2. Approval of Minutes of Committee Meeting 28 June 2023

Amendments that had been made in draft 4 were checked and the minutes were approved.

3. Finance Report (HH)

HH Reported that Barclays' failure to provide online access has resulted in the report being delayed: in addition recent online payments have not been possible.

ACTION: HH to pursue Barclays to resolve the issue (this has now been resolved).

4. Site Secretary Report (GKC)

Tenants Rental Payments

GKC has been in contact with a number of tenants reported by Haringey not to have paid their 2023 plot rents.

Haringey Allotment Coordinator Inspection 12 June 2023 – Plot Terminations

Following the inspection formal Notices to Improve were served by Haringey Council on two plots: these are delivered by registered letter and email and give a calendar month to improve or have their tenancy terminated. No work was carried out on either plot during that month and they were given formal termination from 31 July. Both tenants were emailed by GKC at the start of that month to remind them of their duties, and then after termination to ask for return of their gate keys. One tenant responded and has removed his effects, and the plot has been re-let. The other tenant has not responded to emails or phone calls to landline or mobile.

Problem Plots

As previously reported, GKC, HH and MMK met on 17 May and carried out a "pre-Inspection" assessment of problem plots. GKC subsequently emailed all tenants on email with a detailed pre-inspection "heads-up" as to what was expected, including the new HAF-approved Cultivation document. GKC also emailed/wrote individually to around 25 "problem tenants" indicating the urgency of improving the state of their plots prior to Inspection. Most of these responded positively both by email and in terms of work on their plots.

GKC has continued inspections of the "problem plots" since then and have continued to update the list.

ACTION: Problem Plots Sub-Group to discuss.

Plot Boundary Dispute

MMK, SJones and I adjudicated a debate about the plot boundary.

The Shed Shop

Horticultural Supplies (who supply many of the London allotment sites from their base in Suffolk) are sadly closing down at the end of August due to a death in the owning family. We have a final delivery on Thursday 17 August.

Despite asking many other site secretaries inside and outside Haringey, no-one has come up with a practical replacement supplier. The only other similar suppliers operating trade prices on bulk horticultural/allotment products seem to be way up north. This may have significant implications for our Shop – some items may no longer be obtainable, others may have to be raised in price, there may be more complexity as we may have to deal with multiple suppliers.

HAA Website

I have put up Agreed Minutes of HAA Committee meeting held on 10 May 2023 plus the July Newsletter. Also added, from the Haringey Allotment Forum, the revised Co-Worker/Helper Guidance and Cultivation Guidance documents.

Haringey Allotment Forum 9 July 2023

GKC attended the latest HAF meeting on 9 July.

Current issues include: the continuing fallout from the 2023 plot rental invoicing problems; revising guidance on maintaining waiting lists; clarifying advice on allotment plots dedicated to non-edible plants; oak processionary moth advice and other environmental issues; new tenant admin fees; and the long-delayed Service Level Agreement with Haringey Council. GKC is a member of the small HAF Steering Group which works to improve all guidelines and communications to tenants.

GKC also maintains the HAF website and have updated the open HAF meeting Minutes there.

5. Problem Plots

See Site Secretary Report

6. Vacant Plot

Possible courses of action were discussed.

ACTION: GKC to devise next steps in the reoccupation of this plot

7. Lettings and Probationer Report (MMK)

There have been 2 Plot Terminations which are being re-let.

8. Equipment Hire Report (RD, HH)

ACTION: October dates to be confirmed.

An extra day of booking times was created in August, but no takers turned up.)

More people are needed to provide equipment instruction and supervision.

Don Adams (not Thursdays or Fridays) has volunteered.

The smaller petrol strimmer is operational again (for the moment) but needs final part replacement (DH).

HH will continue to offer support for equipment use and BUT cannot start the petrol strimmers.

GKC, who can start it, will look to see if he can offer other dates.

RD is only be available till the end of the year.

MMK to ask DH to inspect her electric strimmer.

9. Shed Shop Report (SJolly/GKC)

See Site Secretary Report

10. Biodiversity (RD, MMK)

ACTION: RD to send MMK details of upcoming activities including further sunset Bat Walks.

Initial dates for Bat Walks

Saturday 12 August 20.30 at Shed Shop}

Sunday 13 August 20.30 at Shed Shop}

The pond is overflowing with frogs (and the kids love it)

Butterflies are in abundance everywhere.

11. Co-worker Issues (GKC)

Following various difficulties regarding the status of co-workers across Haringey sites, a Co-Worker Application Form has been devised which will define expected short periods of help. Problems have in particular arisen in situations where Co-Workers' positions appear to be becoming inappropriately permanent.

ACTION: Problem Plots Sub-Group to discuss individual plots

12. Bring & Share Picnic-Produce Swap on Saturday 2 September from 1pm-5pm

13. AOB

a) HAA Facebook page. Current plan to revert to original page

b) Research being considered recreating a window(s) that can be opened in the Shed Shop

c) The Union Jack. Suggestion of committee that it should be changed to an HAA flag (to be designed)

14. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 20 September Chair MMK