

Agreed Minutes of HAA Committee Meeting 28 September 2022

Committee: Don Adams (DA); Rita Drobner (RD); Dan Hackett (DH); Hinchee Hung (HH); Sara Jolly (SJolly); Sally Jones (SJones); Geoff Kembell-Cook (GKC); Hilary Laurie (HL); Ann Lloyd (AL); Maggy Meade-King (MMK)

Meeting Chair: SJones

Note-taker: AL

1. Welcome to Members Present

All Members present so no apologies received

2. Approval of Minutes of 6 August Committee Meeting.

No objections were reported so 6 August Minutes were approved

3. Matters Arising from 6 August Committee Meeting 2022

a) Probation Support: DH (not present at 06/08) was pleased to learn that an experienced tenant had offered to assist him in this role. Dan will continue to liaise with tenants needing help.

b) Equipment Subcommittee:

RD and HH met with GKC to discuss equipment hire and to develop a scheme for scheduling hire, including a dedicated email address for tenants to use. Hires may also continue by direct approach to GKC.

c) Defibrillator (SJolly):

SJones has heard that some allotments have either been provided with a defibrillator or given a grant to purchase one.

ACTION: Further investigation (SJones).

d) Battery-powered lightweight strimmer

A new lightweight battery-powered strimmer (with plastic blades and a spare battery) has been ordered

e) Hand-push mower

A hand-push mower has been obtained from Freecycle and put in order by HH and RD.

f) Gate/Padlock

The current padlock is proving difficult for some people because the key-locating pin in the lock 'floats around' and can be difficult to operate.

ACTION: An unused (as new) padlock will be welded up to retaining chain by HH and fitted to the pedestrian gate by GKC. The change will be advertised and new keys offered to tenants with problem keys.

4. Shed Shop verbal report (SJolly)

Shed Shop trade is going well on Sundays 12-2pm with SJolly and casual volunteers. An additional Shed Shop day on Wednesdays 12-2pm is to be given a trial run.

GKC is very happy with Shop arrangements. Broad Bean supplies already need restocking. The Shed Shop also now has its own "Open Flag" (courtesy of RD) signalling when open.

5. Site Secretary Report (GKC)

a) AGM 2023

Highgate Primary School confirmed Saturday March 18th 2-4pm for our 2023 AGM.

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b) Haringey Council

Allotments Coordinator Emi Mehmet has left and Haringey are advertising for a replacement. Alex Fraser visited the site to inspect the plane trees backing Gaskell Road but no report as yet.

c) Haringey Allotment Forum

Pre-pandemic, reps from all Haringey allotment sites were invited to quarterly Saturday morning meetings at Bruce Castle hosted by Haringey Council, to discuss matters of mutual concern. In-person meetings were abandoned in early 2020 but restart in October.

6. Lettings Report (MMK)

We have had two voluntary terminations since August 2022.

New lettings are going well.

7. Finance and Banking (HH)

No stocktaking since last December. Surplus funds have been swept into the interest earning account to earn a better interest income.

Some people no longer carry cash so mobile phone payment arrangements need to be put in place for shop purchases. A poster will be published highlighting HAA's official bank account details for receiving shop and equipment hire income so that tenants do not need to use GKC's personal bank account.

8. BioDiversity Forum Report (MMK, RD)

MMK reported on the recent forum organised by Highgate Neighbourhood Forum for the large landowners in Highgate.

RD will provide (with the assistance of DH) initial research and suggestions on Green Spaces and how to develop corridors between them and how individual gardens/plots can contribute.

ACTION: Initial project ideas were discussed and include:

- Dead hedging – examples to be created
- Communal leaf-litter bin
- A water catcher
- Improving the orchard area so that it is better used.
- Hibernaculum – for overwintering animals
- A mound culture bed

9. Newsletter (MMK)

MMK agreed to produce a MailChimp newsletter: committee members invited to provide material: possible items include

- Biochar/Permaculture
- How best to work with wood
- Increased use of shredding
- How to make proper use of earth
- How/when to use fossil fuels
- Minimising fuel use
- Sustainable water usage
- Dead Hedges
- Plastic reduction

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ACTION: DH is happy to provide the information for material that can be posted on the HAA website and also on the outside of the Shed.

ACTION: MMK o produce a Mailchimp newsletter and also post a hardcopy outside the Shop

10. Haringey Allotment Forum Bruce Castle Saturday 8 October 2022

Committee members were invited to attend as a Highgate rep.

11. Any Other Business

Committee Members are cordially invited to a social in the Highgate Library Cultural and Civic Centre (entrance Croftdown Road) on Friday 28th from 6.30. This is to celebrate the visit of Nicaraguan agro-ecologists Marlen Sanchez & Erika Takeo.

12. Proposed Dates for Meetings in Coming Year

a) Committee Meetings – at 2.30pm in the Shop

Monday 7 November 2022

Monday 12 December 2022

Monday 30 January 2023

Monday 13 March 2023

b) HAA AGM 2023

Saturday 18 March 2023, 2-4pm at Highgate Primary School

13. Chair for Next Committee Meeting (RD)