

HAA Committee Meeting 19th January 2020 Minutes

Agreed Minutes

1. Welcome, present

Don Adams (DA)
 Jim Greenhill (JG) Meeting Chair
 Geoff Kemball-Cook (GKC)
 Hilary Laurie (HL) Note Taker
 Graham Laurie (GL)
 Maggy Meade-King (MMK)

Apologies:

Sara Jolly (SJ)
 Iain Shiels (IS)

2 Approval of Minutes of meeting of 10th November 2019

These were approved.

ACTION: GKC to post on HAA website and Shed Shop Noticeboard.

3 Committee Posts and Volunteers

As yet, no response to appeal for new committee members. Ideally we still require to co-opt further HAA members to act as a Committee Minutes Secretary and a replacement for GL as Treasurer.

4 AGM Report (GKC)

Draft minutes of AGM held on 10 October 2019 approved; to be re-submitted for final approval at the next AGM on 15 October 2020.

5 Accounts/Finances (GL)

(a) 2019 Year-end Accounts and Expenses: gross profit on sales (13%) affected by write-off of metaldehyde-containing slug pellets: would otherwise have been 15%. Expenses for the year were low; bank balances are £2K more than in 2018.

(b) Jan 2020 Stocktake: current stock assessed with a view to reducing total number of items to around 20 and to cease stocking those that are selling very slowly. Agreed that when restocking we should not buy more than 2 years' supply. Agreed not to stock any peat-based compost in future, to reduce the price of Maxicrop Seaweed meal to £10.50 for quick sale, and to begin to stock horticultural grit. GKC will decant bags of Superphosphate and of Ammonia into boxes and label clearly with advice on use.

(c) Banking of receipts: GL described a faster method of banking. To be discussed further.

6 Shed Shop (JG)

Nothing to report.

7 Site Secretary Report (GKC, circulated)

Tenancies and Waiting List: actions since last meeting on 12 November 2019. We have had 3 confirmed voluntary terminations (2 plots have been re-let). As of 15 January 2020 there are 2 vacant plots on site and 154 entries on the Waiting List (up 3 since last meeting) with 7 new

applications since November 12. Despite the long waiting list, the most recent people reaching the top of the list have waited only 28 months before being offered a viewing.

Hire of HAA Equipment: Hire of the strimmer, mowers and the chipper continue by arrangement. Chipping is the idea way to deal with annual fruit tree prunings and return the carbon to the plot. GKC always advises ploholders not to go the bonfire route if possible, and the pro-environment message is getting through.

Proposed Container Area: DA and GKC cleared the remaining weeds and did a rough layout of the weed fabric. We have some stock of cement in the Shed Shop but will still need to order in a large bag of sand and perhaps some more cement in order to prepare the base (Working Party!). Once the area is paved we can proceed with purchase of the flat pack shed and assembly (another Working Party!).

8 Lettings report (MMK)

3 new probationers are doing very well, making good progress. One plot has been re-let.

9 Probationers (DH, MMK)

Nothing to report.

10 Newsletter (IS)

Next newsletter will appear in the spring.

11 Website (GKC) & Facebook (IS)

Nothing to report.

12 Environmental management DH

Nothing to report.

13 Rubbish Removal (DA)

DA arranged a very successful rubbish/recycling Man with Van run taking stuff mainly from 3 plots (2 were relatively recent starters). HAA paid the modest cost of £80. We intend to repeat soon.

14 AOB

None.

15 Next Committee meeting: SUNDAY 15th March 2020

MMK will chair, IS will take notes

Future meetings in 2020, all meetings at Family Centre Gaskell Rd at 10.30 except AGM:

Sunday May 17 2020

Saturday NB July 11 2020 – then BBQ/Plant Sale on Sunday July 12

Sunday September 13 2020

AGM Thursday October 15 2020

Sunday November 15 2020