

HAA Committee Meeting 8th September 2019 Minutes

Agreed

1. Welcome, present

Don Adams (DA)

Jim Greenhill (JG) Meeting Chair

Geoff Kemball-Cook (GKC)

Maggy Meade-King (MMK)

Sara Jolly (SJ)

Apologies: Dan Hackett (DH)

Hilary Laurie (HL)

Graham Laurie (GL)

Iain Shiels (IS)

2 Approval of Minutes of meeting of 6th July 2019

These were approved.

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

3 Matters Arising (not on Agenda)

None

4 Summer BBQ/Plant Sale Sunday 7 July

The event was reviewed. Next year's BBQ & Sale will be on Sunday 12 July, and probably a little later starting and finishing. Many thanks to everyone who contributed time, plants and produce.

5 Committee Posts and Volunteers

No progress on this matter. We still require a Committee Minutes Secretary and a replacement for GL as Treasurer. Committee members were encouraged to consider other tenants who might be co-opted.

6 Accounts/Finances GL

GL sent his apologies but is preparing accounts and notes for the AGM in October.

7 AGM Preparations: 10 October 2019

School Hall is booked for 7pm, start of AGM 7.30pm, JG to chair. All paperwork in preparation, SJ volunteered to provide refreshments. Artist in Residence to be invited to have a stall.

8 New Equipment Shed (Expandastore) GKC

Geoff has dug a trench so that a mains cable could be laid later, if desired. See also Site Sec report.

9A Shed Shop JG

Jim reported that trading is going well.

9B Shed Rota (SJ)

More volunteers always needed to help JG.

ACTION: Sara to draft a set of instructions for volunteers and send to GL for vetting. GKC to laminate the approved instructions which will be kept on the shop counter. SJ to create Whatsapp group (perhaps one or two shed-key-holders who live nearby would agree to be in the group ?). GKC to create list of key-holders and plot numbers to be posted on shed door.

10 Site Secretary Report GKC

Tenancies and Waiting List: actions since last meeting on 6 July 2018

MMK is handling Lettings and will report. We have had three confirmed voluntary terminations since 6 July (one as a result of an NCN at June inspection, one due to ill-health and one due to tenants leaving the area). As of 2 September 2019 there is currently one vacant plot on site and 145 entries on the Waiting List (up 10 since last meeting) with 12 new applications since July 6 (continuing the summer rush). Despite the long waiting list, the most recent people reaching the top of the list are still only waiting 27 months before being offered a viewing. One year ago (in September 2018) the waiting time was 23 months, and two years ago, around 21 months.

11 June 2019 Plot Inspection (continued)

Inspection (first for 21 months) by Emi Mehmet took place on 11 June attended by GKC and MMK. Four NCNs were agreed on grounds of weed growth/non-cultivation: two (J5B and L4B) since gave up their plots voluntarily. The remaining two (R6B and V2B) were reinspected by MMK and GKC after one month as stipulated and judged acceptable and reported as such to Haringey. Currently there has been no suggestion that a further formal autumn inspection will take place.

Haringey Issue of NCNs for Non-Payment of Invoices

A recurrent complaint at the quarterly public Haringey Allotment Forum meetings over recent years has been the incorrect issuing of demands for plot rental payment by Haringey to tenants who have already paid. Highgate did not seem to have a problem ourselves in the past but certainly other sites were very critical of the process at Haringey. AF stated that this was due to the invoicing system being flawed, but that there were no resources available to fix it, so every year some tenants received incorrect demands for payment.

Twice earlier in the year I have been given a short list of apparent Highgate non-payers of rent by Haringey. Each time I contacted tenants as far as possible and provided evidence of payments to Haringey where this was available. Despite this, in the last two weeks at least two tenants who have paid their plot rent have received NCNs for non-payment. I have complained to the Allotment Coordinator and requested a list of the latest NCNs. I will put this forward for the Agenda of the 5 October HAF meeting.

Site Mowing

I have continued mowing the lanes and main paths, plus the picnic area and orchard. One of our mowers' height adjustment lever was repaired by SH.

Hire of HAA Equipment

Hire of the strimmer, mowers and the chipper continue by arrangement.

Proposed Container Area

Delays due to summer holidays! No progress since July meeting. Next step is to bury the plastic conduit underground in case of later adding of mains power from the street (I have bought this), then lay the weed fabric (in Shed Shop). 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 flatpack shed and assembly (another Working Party!)

11 Lettings report MMK

L4B and K1A let, I expect to let J1A shortly.

12 Probationers DH

Apologies from DH.

13 Newsletter HL

Apologies from HL.

Suggested items include:

- AGM advert
- Reminder about the operation of the new CPZ in surrounding streets
- a reminder to plot holders that they should keep tools hidden

14 Website & Facebook IS

It was generally agreed that both the website and the Facebook group are well-used and are effective methods of keeping the majority of plot holders in touch with what is going on.

15 Environmental management DH

Apologies from DH.

16 Chippings Supply GKC

Deliveries continue sporadically.

17 Rubbish Removal IS

Nothing to report.

18 AOB

None

19 Next Committee meeting: SUNDAY 10th November 2019

MMK to chair.

Future meetings in 2020:

Sunday January 19 2020

Sunday March 15 2020

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

All meetings at Family Centre Gaskell Rd at 10.30 except AGM