

NORTH OUTFALL ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN

Position Vacant.
Applicant Welcome.
Contact Secretary.

TREASURER

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SECRETARY

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Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Saturday 5th December 2015.

Present Peter Sanderson, Jane Wood, Fiona Walker, David Duff

Apologies were received Sally Perry, Rockna Jarvis, Steve Atkinson

Minutes of the AGM The minutes of the AGM held on the 26th October 2015 were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

- Peter will apply for a grant to repair the boundary fence
- The beekeeping course Fiona was going to attend is full, so she will need to wait for the next one. The standard tenancy agreement needs to be changed to show that some tenants may be allowed to keep bees.
- The recent flooding of one plot was discussed, and there does not appear to be any reasonable way of avoiding this, so the committee agreed that the next time a suitable plot becomes available it will be offered to the affected plot holders.
- Fiona Walker is managing the waiting list and plot allocation, and will be given the title of Membership Secretary to reflect this.

Financial Report. Peter reported that we currently have £4,976.68 in the bank, plus £101 cash in hand. Rents of £805 remain outstanding. Once these have been paid, and Peter has been reimbursed £79.40 owing for sundries, we will have a balance of £5,803.28.

Jane reported that HBC will allow us £156 for commuted sums this year.

Plot update. There are currently 9 people on the waiting list. It was suggested that we should consider granting a quarter plot to a local school, and agreed that this was a good idea which we should pursue.

Correspondence. Peter suggested that all correspondence to the Secretary should be brought to the committee, unless it required an urgent response. This was agreed. There were two items of correspondence covering the following issues:

- One plot holder had expressed concern about overhanging trees belonging to the Council. The Council are responsible for the trees and hedges, and we are prohibited from cutting them back. Jane will ask the Council to do this when they next trim the hedges.
- There was concern that the rat population at the allotment might increase now that Brenda is no longer secretary, as she and Trevor had taken responsibility for rat control. Fiona advised that we still have rat bait and boxes and can deploy them where necessary if we are told about an issue. Individual plot holders need to avoid putting food scraps on compost heaps, and should turn compost regularly.

Trustees. Peter advised that the agreement with the Council includes a clause requiring trustees to be on the committee. Two of the trustees had left the committee therefore new trustees were required. It was agreed that Peter, Fiona, and Jane will now be trustees.

Distribution of Minutes. It was agreed that from now on the committee will agree minutes of meetings before they are circulated. Minutes will be circulated to the committee with a turnaround time of around 48 hours.

Website. Lawrence had kindly produced stats showing the activity on the website, and these were considered. There is concern that it may be necessary for someone to take over the website at some point in the future as Lawrence has said that he may not always be able to maintain it, and also concerns about the potential cost of the website going forward. Jane will investigate the cost with the Lawrence, so the committee can decide if the website should continue taking this into account. If so, then allotment holders will be asked if anyone is interested in taking over the site if and when Lawrence wants to hand it over.

Minutes from the HBC meeting 12 November 2015. Jane reported on the meeting. The main points of interest were:-

Bonfires. HBC has a “no burning” policy, but we should tell them if we are intending to hold bonfires, and make sure neighbouring properties are aware.

Funding. Some sites had received funding for fences from Awards for All (lottery funding) and supermarkets were now starting to make funds available from the money made from selling plastic bags.

HDAF AGM. – this will be held on Tuesday 26th January at Oatlands Mount Social Club.

Manure Scheme. It is not always easy for Sally to collect payment for the manure scheme, so Peter agreed that he would take payments, either through the bank account or by cheque, although it was made clear that he will not manage the scheme. Members can also put a cheque in an envelope under Sally’s shed door, and those members of the committee present also agreed to take payments.

AOB. It is clear that Brenda undertook many additional duties during her time as secretary, and there was some discussion around how some of these would be dealt with going forward.

Barbeque. The funds raised by the barbeque have been dwindling and, although some members expressed a desire for it to continue at the AGM, no-one was prepared to organise it. It was felt that it was good to have the opportunity to socialise, and that this was the main purpose of the barbeque. Taking this into account, alongside the difficulties around buying large quantities of food without the promise of good weather, it was agreed that a picnic would be arranged this year, where people can bring their own food and drink.

Coffee mornings. Fiona and David volunteered to continue with the coffee mornings, but these will be on an ad-hoc basis dependant on the weather forecast.

Service and repairs. Peter agreed to arrange this in future.

Newsletter. Jane will produce a newsletter if the committee feels it is needed.

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