

**MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING 24.09.16,**

Present – Bob Hare, Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Angela Silva-Jones, Jill Ellis, Pamela Jackson, Peter Campbell, David Craig, Sara Leviten, Michael Harrison

Apologies for absence – John Wilkinson, Steve Shaw

Minutes of last meeting – Agreed.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Bob Hare

AGM – This year's was the best attended ever! Thanks to Jill, Alison and Peter for working on the Tenants Handbook and many thanks to Peter for printing the end result and distributing it. Also the social event after the AGM was well attended and thanks to Stavros and his two friends for organising the BBQ cooking and for bringing food to share. Thanks to all who brought food and made it such an enjoyable evening.

Car Park sign – Thanks so much to Billy for doing this, and also for wheelbarrow repair.

Trading Shed – Thanks to Peter for the regular stock updates on the news email.

Bee Plot – Meeting to be arranged. Pamela co-opted onto sub-group.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

Waiting List and Lettings – 145 on the Waiting List including 14 on the long list, 6 new tenants, 4 probationers, 2 vacant plots. 4 or 5 plots due to come vacant at the end of the year including Colin's 3 plots. Clare has agreed to our taking over the plot with the poly tunnel on it as a community plot.

Rubbish Collection – Alison to ask for a rubbish collection on 17th October. To be confirmed.

Maintenance – Stavros will be asked if he would willing to be employed on the site to do plumbing repairs. Many thanks to Geoff and Peter for repairing the large hole which had been purposely cut in the fence between our site and Buckingham Lodge.

Bottom gate hedge and wire fence – We need to keep an eye on the height of the trees and we need a new wire mesh fence immediately on the right. This needs a work party to complete.

Strimming noise restrictions and bonfires – A Springfield Avenue resident has requested we circulate the road with a note explaining the arrangements for strimming on the plot and for bonfires.

Trees bordering Springfield Avenue – Alison and Angela plan to speak to certain Springfield Avenue residents about our trees at the bottom of their gardens.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Peter Campbell

Steve Shaw has agreed to take over the role of Treasurer for the Association and he has access to an Auditor, called Keith, who will audit the accounts once a year. Very many thanks to Peter for being our Treasurer for several years and to Harry Pullan for auditing the accounts for us.

The Business Reserve Account has £4,600 and there is £2,300 in the Current Account. We have not yet received the annual Council grant.

NEW SOCIAL SHED – Angela Silva Jones

The back of the Top Shed area has been cleared of rubbish and the Architect who visited before is going to come again and survey the site, free of charge, now it's cleared. A meeting is planned when we have his report. Peter felt the project needed some clear time constraints but Angela and those involved in the meetings so far felt it was difficult to put volunteers under this sort of pressure, and two years is a more realistic and very approximate guess for the project's completion. The Top Shed is run down and in need of some improvements if we are going to continue to use it for that length of time and Sally will discuss with Annie what needs doing in the short term. Bob proposes visiting the straw bale Hub building at Lordship Park and the log cabin at Railway Fields on Green Lanes.

ROAD AND CAR PARK SURFACES

The tarmac on both the car park and the road is in need of repair. We may be able to arrange to patch the car park with the help of one of the tenants. Alison asked our Allotments Officer who said it was unlikely the Council would undertake this repair. Peter remembered Colin saying that years ago the Council surveyed the site for a possible school building and found that it was slowly subsiding down

the hill. Hence the cracks in the tarmac. Peter suggested bringing a road onto the site from the top gate instead, but this would involve a lot of construction work. Alison will ask a tenant with skills in tarmac repair whether patching the car park is feasible.

PLANT SALE 2017

Second Poly tunnel - The plant sale itself and the plant sales beforehand at the Trading Shed have been very successful. It's a good way for tenants to get flowers and vegetables growing quickly and Angela again provided a good selection of healthy, useful and interesting plants at the pre-sales. Peter pointed out that the Plant Sale and the pre-sales provide an essential income for the financial stability of the Site. But we need more poly tunnel space for plants. Once the Plant Sale was over, the poly tunnel has been used by tenants for their own plants, organised by David. There is room for a second poly tunnel below the first and a small team of Angela, David and Bob will research the best model for us to buy. Alison will run the idea past our Allotments Officer for approval.

Potting Shed - Similarly, we need a potting shed for the plant sale, especially as we no longer have the use of Colin's shed. Bob and the meeting will research second hand sheds on line.

Plant Sale 2018 – Angela needs a work force to sow and pot up plants regularly and reliably before the Plant Sale. There is a lot of work involved and Colin used to raise many of the plants himself at home. But those who have helped in the past agreed if done together, it was an enjoyable activity! Bob is going to order a reusable Plant Sale Banner in a plastic material online, and this will save a lot of time.

Area around community poly tunnel and toilet – Michael has bark chipped between the toilet and the poly tunnel. Angela will organise a work party periodically to keep these areas round the poly tunnel and toilet tidy and weeded.

A.O.B.

Hydrating Toilet – this is suffering from over-use and too much liquid, and has had to be temporarily closed. The toilet cannot dry out that amount of liquid urine. John has contacted the Toilet Company for advice how best to deal with this. Peter pointed out a temporary baffle needs to be put in place as soon as possible to aid the drying out process. Tenants need to be encouraged to use urine on their compost heaps where possible! A regular inspection is needed to check the liquid levels.

Allotment Forum – The next Allotment Forum is on 8th October 10am-12 noon at Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, N17 8NU. Open to all tenants to attend.

Council Compost delivery – Bob is arranging a date with the Parks Dept.

Date of next meeting – December 10th at 2pm at Peter's house