

Sharnbrook Allotments Association AGM Monday 13/9/21 Meeting

open: 7.32pm

1. **Matters arising from previous minutes:** None

2. **Appointment of officers:**

Chairman, Brian Bolton agreed to continue for another year

Secretary, Cecile Brun appointed for another year

Treasurer, Ray Mayhew agreed to continue for another year

Committee members, Mike Jenns and Ann Mayhew were appointed for the year

3. **Chairman's report:**

The chairman made general remarks as to the varying quality of the gardening year due to challenging weather, in which he referred to the successful manure collection from Hill Farm.

Last year's merger with the gardening club for purchase of seeds and potatoes was generally satisfactory although some problems were associated with the order being later than normal due to covid restrictions and some items were out of stock. The membership will be canvassed as to whether to repeat the arrangement next spring.

Security at the garage had been increased with the addition of a metal plate where the lock is situated.

The chairman made some general comments about shed security and made the point that thieves seemed only interested in power tools and that if sheds did not contain these they were safe enough without locks and indeed were less likely to be damaged by thieves attempting to remove locks.

The mowers (2) had not been serviced in at least two years therefore both had been serviced this year at a cost of £120.

Inspections had been carried out through the year on general tidiness of plots and the Parish Clerk had sent out advisory letters to those plot holders where there was an issue. The state of empty plots and what might be done about them was also mentioned.

4. **Treasurer's report:**

The treasurer ran briefly through the statement of accounts.

It was noted that four keys were being held by the chairman and should be treated as cash assets (cash in hand).

Half of the 'rent' payments for allotments were collected by the date of the AGM, the rest due by 31 of September or the plot will be forfeit. Water, hedge trimming and the broad grass areas were paid for by the Parish Council and were deemed to be very good value. A skip was also provided by the Parish Council annually. The cost of mower servicing caused some concern and there was some discussion as to what the policy was on mower replacement, especially as there was more money in the bank than was essential for an organisation of this kind. It was agreed that a policy on mower maintenance and replacement would be looked at in committee.

5. **Agenda item 9:**

A proposed amendment was accepted to the wording of both items 9.1 and 9.2

9.1 the words "amortised over" would be replaced by "shared by"

9.2 the words "amortised over" would be replaced by "costs shared by"

There then followed some discussion over the proposals, this was followed by a decision to vote on whether to move to a consideration of 9.1 v 9.2 or maintain the status quo albeit with some modification such as securing a cash box in the garage with the key held by the treasurer. A vote was taken and it was unanimous in rejection of the status quo.

After further discussion it was decided to look again at 9.1 and 9.2 in committee and release a modified version for members to vote on.

6. Agenda item 10:

Bulk buying was suggested by the chairman, there was some discussion on cost-benefit considered. It was also suggested that for the cost of 50p membership Bedford allotments already supplied discounted items (this info needs to be shared), compost and fleece amongst them. The chairman indicated that he would canvass members over this matter. To be discussed in committee

7. Agenda item 11: Manure availability:

Tim Hammond of Sharnbrook Animal Feeds has offered members a large quantity of well matured horse manure on a self collection basis, simply make contact directly.

8. Agenda item 12: Fund raising:

This item was left for discussion in committee.

9. Agenda item 13: Community Aid:

The chairman was keen that we hold a register of people willing to help if anyone was having difficulties over allotment problems, an example given was starting the mowers or strimmer. There were a number who thought this a good idea, it will be developed in committee and members approached as to whether they might go on a list of contactable people. Remember that a whatsapp group exists for info, questions and queries.

10. Agenda item 14: Gate and Water:

A reminder to close the gate and water taps was issued. The problem of low water pressure at the Wellponds end of the allotments was raised as this can lead to taps being left on. It was suggested that reminder signs might be helpful. It was also suggested that when finished at the tap gardeners should leave a stick on the surface of the water butts to prevent drowning of wildlife.

There was a request that the lock on the gate be only used in the winter months when less people were around, this was agreed to.

11. Agenda item 15: Any Other Business:

There was some discussion over the reletting of plots after a previous plot holder was unhappy that their plot had not been re-let immediately. It appears that of six on the waiting list two took on plots, two wanted to defer until later in the year and two were uncontactable. One item was put forward for inclusion in the next agenda, (the fencing of plots).

12. Agenda item 16: Date of next meeting:

No date was set but it was indicated that the next AGM would be during September in 2022.

Attendees

Gerry Shanks
Ginny Smith
Cecile Brun
Janette Grose
Andrew Grose
Mike Jenns
Helen Glanville
Ann Mayhew
Chris Gibbons
Malcolm Gibbons
Cheri West
Sabine Brzozowska
Theo Gibbs pp Amenities Chair
Ray Mayhew

SHARNBROOK ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNT AS AT YEAR ENDING 31st August 2021

Total Balance £888.08 on 9th September 2020 (when Ray Mayhew took over as Treasurer)

£857.08	Bank balance		
£31.00	Petty cash		
INCOME		EXPENDITURE by Brian Bolton	
£59.80	Petrol money (cash)	£66.82	Petrol + petrol can
£9.00	Key deposits (cash)	£24.00	Keys
£43.00	Allotment Association Fee (paid into bank account)	£120.00	Mower Service
		£69.99	Garage Door Repair
£111.80	TOTAL	£280.81	TOTAL
Brian Bolton was repaid using £56 petty cash and a cheque for £224.81 (=£280.81)			
Total Balance at 31 August 2021			
£900.08	Bank Balance (cheque still to be cashed)		
£43.80	Petty cash (includes £9 Key deposits)		
£943.88	TOTAL		

Total funds of the Allotment Association after cheque is cashed will be: £719.07

(Bank balance: £675.27 + Petty Cash £43.80 = £719.07)