

SAA Minutes 4/10/22 (moved from 19/9/22 due to Queens funeral)

meeting open 7.30pm

1. apologies, Brian Bolton (chair)
(with the chair being absent Ann Mayhew took the chair)
There were no other apologies received.

2) Minutes of 13/9/21, these were approved unanimously.

3) There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4) Appointment of committee, Brian Bolton continues to stand as chair;
Mike Jenns continues as secretary;
Ann Mayhew takes over as treasurer as Ray Mayhew stands down there were no dissenters to this change.
Caroline Hayward joins as member, (proposed by MJ seconded RM)

5) Chairs Report: it was the chairs wish that tribute be paid to the late John Hunt, this was done by AM.
The hot summer and extended drought period were noted and that plot holders might wish to look at drought resistant crops in future.
Strangers on the allotments still pose a problem and potholders were urged to challenge anyone they did not recognise. It is proposed that another couple of manure collection days at Sharnbrook feeds be organised, an email will be sent with dates when this is arranged, plot holders are urged to take advantage of this, fill as many bags as you need, (bags are available usually) and a trailer is usually available to transport them to the allotments
Plot holders are requested to contact the chairman if they are getting into problems over plot maintenance.

6) Treasurers Report: RM reported that the balance was healthy and that we had acquired a rotator, paid for room hire and sundry maintenance items such as fuel and batteries.
starting balance £719.09
finishing balance £699.50
the rotator had cost £100
the Parish Clerk said that incoming fees, key deposits and fuel payments amounted to incoming monies of £264

7)a) Fund raising needed more committee members, CH a welcome addition.
The committee needs to think of fund raising events which would be fun and appeal to people.
Plots would not be charged the full rent immediately if: the plot was taken over well into the charging period or: the plot was in a very overgrown state involving much work before planting could take place.
Some discussion took place over charging refundable deposits for plots, the general feeling of the meeting was that this would not deter people from renting plots as our rents were very low anyway.
The Parish Clerk pointed out that a separate account would need to be set up to hold the proposed (now agreed to) deposits for new plot holders.
7)b) Power for the garage was again mooted, this was so that we could gradually move away from petrol power to the much lighter, safer and more environmentally friendly battery powered tools. in view of the capital costs it was suggested that we approached our councillor Duggie McMurdo for a contribution from the Ward Fund. a proposal would need to be made to him (AM?)

8) There was currently only one half plot still vacant and that spare plots are advertised. Closing the gate was still an issue, would people please close the lock when entering in order to prevent it being stolen especially as it was an expensive lock! and please close and lock gate when leaving.
The erection of fencing down the pinch mill side of the allotments was raised as both deer and dogs had been a problem. A costing exercise would take place (BB and MJ)
The usual skip for green waste would be in place towards to end of October as usual, this year may see another smaller skip for non green waste such as redundant fencing.
Group membership of the National Allotments Association was discussed, and considering the huge cost saving over individual membership and the benefits accrued it was agreed to take group membership. It was pointed out that discounted seed was also available from NAA.
RM points out that since the heatwave the garage door is hard to close, any problems see Ray and he will advise.
Finally another plea was made for more help on the committee, please consider joining us as many hands make light work!

9) September 2023 (actual date to be decided later)