

Minutes KAA AGM 11.10.23

Apologies - Kath & Alan Dawson (Plot 5b), Adrian Morgan (Plot 10b), Robin Sunflower (Plot 4), Tony & Pat Baxter (Plot 23), Simon Brown (Plot 22), Yolanda Baker (Plot 17), Tony Flynn (Plot 18), Liz & Ray Lloyd (Plot 9b).

Present - Claire Knight (Plot 15) , Di Ward (Plot 8), Trevor Stephenson (Plot 7), Debbie Wyatt (Plot 13b), Wendy Wilson (Plot 9a), Peter & Roberta Robinson (Plot 20+21), Jules Miller (Plot 27), Dougie Shaw (Plot 25a+b), John Donnelly (Plot 13a), Sean Sweeney (Plot 30b), Kevin Oates (Plot 1), Cathy Jack (Plot 31), Helen & Gary Rae (Plot 26), Peter & Mary Webster (Plot 16), Maria & Kelvin Heywood (Plot 3b) , Jane Hughes (Plot 28b), Lauren Irving (Plot 2b), Berni Hunt (Plot 24), Helen Lloyd (Plot 19a+30a), Keith & Lindsay Stoops (Plot 25c), Sue & Bob Ball-Cole (Plot 14), Donna Whittington (Plot 19b+3a).

Minutes from last meeting approved by Maria, seconded by Helen Lloyd

Appointment/Clarification of Officers

- Jules thanked everyone for their support during her 20 years as chair. Jules was thanked for her time and commitment by Maria and presented with a gift from Plotters.
- Clarification of who is on the committee - Trevor, Simon, Claire, Di, Berni, Donna, Peter & Roberta, Helen R
- Brief update on Andy James, allotment rep for CWAC. He is writing an allotment strategy for CWAC.

Cancellation of open day

- This was due to bad weather the week before and bad forecast for the actual day.
- The suggestion was made and agreed that next year we should have a date in reserve in case of bad weather. Also the need to not clash with Hoole was noted.
- Discussion around the short notice of the cancellation and the hard work that went into organizing the produce stall and plants to sell.
- It was agreed that communication before the event was not as good as it should have been. This was due to a problem with the association email account which has since been resolved.
- It was suggested and approved that when plot rents are due, all email addresses will be checked. At this time permissions will also be checked for GDPR

Plot changes

- Helen Lloyd will take over Jeff's plot 11
- Donna will take on the other half of plot 19
- There are 2 half plots to let, if anyone wants to change/extend email Di
- Lindsay Stoops to give up I-shaped bed. Use of this to be discussed at a future meeting
- Sean will leave his plot at the end of the year due to relocation to Melbourne

Waiting List

- Currently closed at 10
- 4 questionnaires are returned, 6 pending
- Likely to stay closed for foreseeable future

Lawn Mower

- Repaired and back in use
- Currently being checked by a committee member after each use
- Discussion around how it was broken and how and where it should be used. Some confusion and communication issues. It should only be used on the main paths

Introduction of working party teams

- Simon's report states that a number of plotters are finding it difficult to do the 5 hours community work expected of all plotters. Some people have not done any hours this year.
- To counter this the suggestion was made that teams are set up to focus on different jobs to maintain the site. All plotters are expected to join at least one group. Each group will have a team leader who will set up a whatsapp/email group to communicate with the team. The team is then responsible for the completion of the tasks allocated to that team. This should make it easier for everyone to complete their hours and also encourage community working.
- Initially the groups will be Mowing (10), Entrance management (5), Polytunnel management (5), Pavilion management (6), Wildflower/pond (6), Social (4)
- An open day group was also suggested, along with general maintenance and seed secretary to order and manage group seed orders from Kings seeds.
- Simon to create a sign up sheet and email to all plotters

Socials

- 10th December mulled wine and mince pies at the pavilion, 1pm
- Date tbc for social at the Legion like last year. People to bring food to share. Possibly a Sunday evening before Christmas.

Treasurer Report

- Trevor explained his report. £200 is ring fenced for outgoings, £200 unallocated reserves.
- Discussion around raising the plot rents. They have not risen in at least 10 years. Trevor suggested £54 full plot. Discussion around whether this was too modest increase. £60 suggested.
- Plot cost rise vote taken and increase to £60 agreed.
- Discussion around insurance and if polytunnel, pavilion covered - concern expressed about fireworks.

AOB

- Strimmer - current strimmer too heavy and unreliable. Discussion around whether to purchase a new one. Show of hands indicated that most people have their own so it was agreed not to purchase one for the association.
- Fundraising/donations to charity - association discussed the setting up of a table at one of the entrances by the open day produce team, potentially once a month, honesty box or manned. This will be further discussed at the next meeting, to be added to agenda.
- Food bank donations - to be put outside the pavilion on a Sunday evening. Kevin has been taking things to the food bank, lack of communication has meant this has not been very successful this year.
- Soil improver - Berni is organizing this, more details to follow

- Could the L shaped bed be turned into a community orchard? To be discussed at later date
- Apple pressing - successful, thank you Donna for organizing
- Updated map of site and to be put on notice boards
- Hoole Allotments have a shop you can buy various things from, you can join the association as an associate member

Next meeting 22nd November 7.30