**ASHFORD** **ALLOTMENT** **COMMITTEE** **MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY** **18th January 2023**  TOWERS SCHOOL KENNINGTON

Present Penny Winston- Chairman and Bybrook Cemetery

 Brian Stamp- Treasurer Jonathan Goodwin- Network Manager

 Lisa Harrison- Social Media and Membership Secretary

 Heather Ahern- Musgrove Farm Gwen Protheroe- Christchurch and Jemmett

 Carol Ridings -Secretary Jo Perkin- Bulk Buying Manager

 David Johnson- Allotments and Service Support Officer

1. **Apologies**

Lesley Bonarius- Orion Way, Greg White - Little Burton, Brenda Raggett- Westrees. Mark Cooper-William Road

**2.** **Chairman’s** **Opening** **remarks**

Firstly welcome back to our first meeting of the year and wishing you all a happy 2023 and a successful year on the allotment.

Welcome to Mark Cooper who replaces Colin Baring on William Road.

Particular thanks to Greg White who sadly is to give up being a site rep at Burton Farm

Please minute my thanks for all his support especially over the last weeks.

It ha been a dreary wet but mild start to the year but as we are currently in a cold spell I do hope it will soon be warm enough to begin digging sowing and planting .

As you all know my site and that of Burton Farm are now managed by Kennington Community Council.

It is no secret that thus far it has been a very negative and stressful experience .

There has been no communication with tenants and our rent is now£12.50 a perch and no concessions

We have argued vigorously and I further thank Greg again for his support to challenge our situation over these weeks.

We have done everything possible to amend the changes but to no avail.

I still feel my position here as Chair is an anomaly and suggest again that in 2024 when many of these committee positions are up for re election that my role is discussed again to see if there might be a tenant on an ABC site to take over .

I am also conscious that since covid etc we have not had an AGM and have a suggestion for that in a later agenda item.

In the meantime thanks to Brian as this is the last time we can use this venue and in advance we all wish you a long and happy retirement .

Thanks were given to Colin, Greg and Brenda.

 3. **Minutes**

Agreed

4. **Bulk** **Buying** **Manager’s Report**.

Jo wondered which society we were affiliated to. Brian confirmed that we are members of the Allotment and Garden Council, run by Nottingham Council, not the National Allotment Society which proved to be too expensive.

The grant Jo applied for, from the Kent Community Council, has been declined.

The seed potatoes have been delivered.

5. **Treasurer’s** **Report**

Bank Account 1 £2911.42

Summer Show Float £129.70

Account 1 Total £3040.70

Bank Account 2 £3855.18

Till (account 2) £489.59

Treasures petty cash £25.00

Account 2 Total £4369.77

Total Cash Assets £7410.47

Trading store income 2022 £3512.11

Trading Store expenditure 2022. £3485.08

Profit for 2022. £27.03

6. **Show** **Secretary’s** **Report**

Penny felt that a show this year would be a good idea. Kennington WI hall is available for a Saturday in August, £15 for the first hour of usage then subsequently £10 per hour. She is looking at 12 August and possibly combining it with the AGM. It would open at 9 with people able tho take produce, judging between 11-12 with the AGM @ 2.30, to finish at 4. Unfortunately there is no car parking on site.

This idea was proposed by Brian and seconded by Lisa. Unanimously agreed.

The schedule will be looked at by Penny and Heather to make it more user friendly, this will be available at the next meeting, and other allotment holders will be able to show - eg South Willesborough.

Heather has ideas of procuring prizes for the show.

**7. Publicity Manager’s Report**

Heather and Jo will look at posters to advertise the trading store. David will be able to get these printed for the notice boards.

Jonathan suggested that it may be possible to set up on the web site a system whereby you could e mail queries to your site rep, but keeping e mail address private.

8.. **Web** **Site** **Manager’s Report**

The new web site has been completed, it is now more robust and can give better access to others on the committee to update. Jonathan sent round the link so that information on the site could be updated, trading store prices, opening hours etc.

It may become possible to renew membership on line.

9. **Membership**  **Secretary’s Report**

There were 9 renewals on the first Saturday that the trading store opened. Appledore Gardening club want to become members of the trading store. It was agreed that they could have a society membership for a year at £4.50, then depending on their usage this may be increased.

10.. **Site** **Representative’s** **report**

Christchurch and Jemmett.- All well, potentially 1 new tenant.

Repton- 1 new tenant. Jill wondered whether 1 or 2 new plots could be created from the ‘bonfire site’, as bonfires are no longer allowed. David will look into this.

Musgrove Farm - There are a few sites not being cultivated. Signs have gone up re fly tipping and this seems to have stopped the problem.

Westrees- Brenda is stepping down as site rep. She asked whether the rubbish had been removed and a no fly tipping site been put up. This has been done.

11.**Report** **of** **the** **Allotment** **Officer**

There are 8 vacant plots at present. David is currently doing a walk round with site reps.

The water company did not come back for some time re water butts, however they are now going to be delivered be the end of February /beginning of March to a site so that plot holders can pick them up.

David is looking at funding the water harvesting system for William Road using Section 106 payments.

The padlocks are also being looked into, potentially replacing them with a key pad system, but this may require the installation of new gates.

AOB

Heather wondered if there was still a kings seed order from the society. This stopped however when we became members of the Allotment and Garden Council.

Date of next meeting will be **3rd** **May** venue to be confirmed.