

GUNSITE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 7th April 2024 at 10.00 at the Nelly Tee hut.

Present: Mike Patrick (Chair), Linda Craig (Secretary) Liz Brunton, Maggie Jarman, Gavin Hamilton, Lorna Mills, Kathy Heeps, Marc Meryon, Judith Patrick, Jane Taylor

1. Apologies for Absence: Carrol Henry, William Marshall

2. Approval of Minutes of last meeting 14 January 2024) – approved

Matters arising: Action items:

- Revised instructions for voting at AGM are on the website.
- Website updates: new dates for meetings are on the website, apart from CDAS meetings which are still being fixed. Maggie will put something on the website relating to Asian hornets (which do not pose a threat to humans, but to bees). *Action: Maggie J*
- Jane has purchased and assembled 3 new wheelbarrows.
- Paths have been closed to protect the grass. Plot-holders keep reopening the paths which is unhelpful, given the exceptionally wet weather.
- Potholes – planings have been supplied and have been used up. Jane will speak to the DE again and try to get our own planings pile on site. *Action: Jane T*
- Middle car park drainage is better and there is wildflower mix on the mound.
- Horsetail & Japanese Knotweed will be examined as they start to grow. *Action: Liz B & William M*
- Plots 11 and 12 have been cleared and 12a & b have been let. Plot 11 needs strimming. *Action: Liz B*
- The rubbish around apiary can now be cleared.

3. Chair report

This was circulated on 28th March and covered the following issues:

a) Beekeeping

CDAS Committee (08 March) agreed a motion for independent scrutiny and a model policy which will be tailored to the needs of each site. Philip Milner met with Bromley BKA beekeepers on 21 March. Mike P and Elaine B are chasing PM for the outcome. This meeting agreed that Judith P continue to administer existing policy (as agreed by Gunsite AGM) until a new policy is agreed; she will arrange an early inspection of hives. *Action: Judith P*

Committee also agreed that current and future committees need to retain the right to call for a ban on beekeeping on the site if issues and conflicts become intractable.

b) Co-op status

The motion to move CDAS to Co-op status was agreed at CDAS AGM on 24 March.

c) New Lease / Structures

DE will only review the leases for Grove and Gunsite once the new Grange site lease has been agreed. As part of the new draft Grange lease, DE has imposed a height limit on new sheds and a requirement for non-compliant structures to be taken down. Successive Gunsite committees have allowed erection of perimeter sheds without the licence required by our 2011 lease. There is no record of how many and which sheds have been built since 2011. This committee is concerned that if the height cap is imposed retrospectively, it would affect many plot-holders. Mike P has submitted to CDAS a survey of Gunsite's existing perimeter structures. Martin Beard will negotiate the new Gunsite lease with DE and we will

argue for an amnesty for all current sheds, and for the 2-metre height cap only to apply to new sheds. Committee agreed that Maggie's draft questionnaire on structures be put on hold. Action: Mike P

d) Ambulance Access

Committee will encourage all plot-holders to carry ID, gate padlock code and a phone at all times, in case of emergency. Mike P will draft a reminder for all plot holders. Action: Mike P & Gavin H

e) North boundary Fence repairs

A section of our fence has fallen into the golf club site on the North Boundary. The golf club manager has offered to repair fence but Gunsite must get plot holders to remove materials stacked against fence and must pay for clearance of plant growth. Mike P has drafted an email to those directly concerned but committee will also issue a reminder to all perimeter plot holders. Action: Mike P & Gavin H

4. Finance report

Kathy's report was circulated and there are no updates.

5. Site Officers' report

- Jane has reported broken padlock to DE.
- Annual inspection date has been set.
- Bonfires have had to be rescheduled due to the wet weather

6. Health and safety

CDAS insurance of the three sites will continue once Co-op status is agreed.

We note that the supply of first aid equipment is the individual's responsibility. We will remind all plot-holders who have a serious accident to notify the GS allotments email, so a log can be kept as part of our risk assessment. Action: Mike P & Gavin H

7. AOB

Communications. Noted that Gavin will continue to batch non-urgent communications for plot holders together - rather than issue these piecemeal.

There is flooding of the car park by the far manure pile as the southern ditch has been getting too deep. David S will modify the overflow arrangements to allow water to discharge sooner.

Sadly, Lorna is moving and has to give up her plot and therefore will no longer be part of this committee. We thank her for all her fellowship and support and her excellent arrangements of the socials.

8. Next meetings

Saturday 6th July, at the Hut, at 10.00 am

Sunday 6th October, at the Hut, at 10.00 am

Sunday 17th November, at the Scout Hut, at 10.00 am for the AGM