

Alsager Gardens Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting Held On 30 January 2018

PRESENT

Members: Adrian Ford (Chairman) David Pitt (Treasurer) David Spall (Trading Secretary)
Mike Hubbard (Rep Cedar Ave) Mike Smith (Rep Coronation Ave)
Lesley Quarter Maine (Rep Talke Rd) Pauline Hubbard (Minutes)

Visitors: Liz Pinkney (Community Allotment Request)

MINUTES	ACTION
<p>The meeting welcomed Mike Smith (Coronation Ave) and Liz Pinkney</p>	
<p>1. APOLOGIES</p>	
<p>Keith Biggs(Secretary) Derek Hough(President) Hilary Robinson (Membership Secretary) John Nixon (Rep Talke Rd) Susan Plowright Colin Cartledge</p>	
<p>2. MINUTES of meeting held on 28 November 2018 approved. NB No meeting was held in December 2018</p>	
<p>3. MATTERS ARISING</p>	
<p>AF gave an update on Keith Biggs (Secretary) who is making a good recovery from two recent operations. It was agreed to send our best wishes for his recovery along with a card and a bowl of fruit. In Keith's absence and until his return. Pauline Hubbard has agreed to undertake the Secretaries duties where agreed and able.</p>	AF PH
<p>4.TREASURER'S REPORT</p>	
<p>DS distributed copies the End of Year accounts for 2016/17 which he will report on at the AGM. The auditors cost is £90. It was noted that sales (plants and seeds) had increased this year but that there is an overall loss for the year.</p>	
<p>Balance Cash/Current account £7787 (includes the £500 grant from Seddons) Balance Reserve account £4,355 <u>Total £11,346</u></p>	
<p>Liabilities -none Trading £4,793 c/w £4,056 + £737 Rents £536 from 18.5 half plots c/w £582 from 19 half plots Subs £63 from 18 members c/w £66 from 19 members</p>	
<p>DP advised that he now urgently requires the NSALG invoice for the Affiliation fee which is due on 1st January 2018. PH to advise HR</p>	PH/HR
<p>5. TRADING SECRETARY'S REPORT</p>	
<p>DS opened by thanking Mike Hubbard for his sterling work in transforming the Trading Hut with the counter, layout and shelving improvements.</p>	

The Potatoes from NSLG have arrived and will be delivered to The Hut on Monday morning 5th February 2018 along with the fertiliser and compost order. DS requested support with taking this delivery and then placing all items within the hut. It was agreed that all committee members would canvass support with this task – many hands make light work!

Volunteers to be requested to attend the hut at **9.30am on 5 Feb 2018** to assist. AB and MS offered apologies due to prior commitments.

6.SECRETARY'S REPORT

On behalf of Keith Biggs, PH reported on the funding and programme of works to progress and complete the Accessibility raised beds. The available funding has been confirmed with the Treasurer (DP) and with the Alsager Town Council Finance Manager (Joanne Melia).

The remaining Town Council Maintenance budget of £1316 is to be fully committed this year. Financial Regulations require:

- Purchases below £1000 approved by the Town Clerk
- Purchases between £1000 - £5000 need to go to the Civic Services Committee for approval

PH presented a document showing a staged approach to the Project, given the funds currently available.

It was agreed to go ahead as recommended

- Complete all raised beds at Lawton Rd
- Completing stage1 at Cedar Avenue ie Three raised beds
- Purchase all sleepers required including the two raised beds at Talke Rd and the 3 further planned raised beds at Cedar Ave. Thus, ensuring we get the best unit price for the sleepers and minimise delivery charges.

This phased plan will allow Talke Rd to progress with the preparation of the two raised beds which will be completed as more monies or materials become available. The final stage will be the completion of the further three raised beds at Cedar Ave as funds allow.

The meeting then considered the 3 quotations for the laying of flags etc at Lawton Rd. It was agreed to proceed with Garden Solutions but to explore if ground membrane is required.

The purchase of the sleepers is from Council funds and requires approval by the Civic and Amenities Committee which next meets on 26 February 2018. Following this the order will be placed by Joanne Melia (Alsager Town Council Finance Manager)

Work to go ahead asap to complete Lawton Rd Raised beds and PH to request /raise orders as appropriate, copy to DP

PH circulated a copy of the recent marketing material and press release from Seddon Homes, following the presentation of the cheque for £500 to the AGA. This is funding that was secured by Keith Biggs.

ALL

PH

AF/PH

To view this, go to <https://www.seddonhomes.co.uk/blog/crofton-alsager/seddon-homes-donates-community-gardens-association/>

7.ALLOTMENT OFFICERS' REPORTS

Coronation Avenue- Site full.

Talke Road -Quarter plot available. Work on trees to go ahead

Lawton Road – Quarter plot on hold

Cedar Ave – Site full. Work to remove large sycamore at entrance FOC to commence on Thursday 1st February 2018. MH has enlisted volunteers to assist with removal of branches etc.

9. 2018 AGM Tuesday 13 February 8pm at Highfield School

DS confirmed that arrangements have been made for us to hold the AGM at with Highfield school and that he will arrange refreshments accordingly.

All officers present confirmed they were willing to stand for 2018. Those not present at the meeting to please confirm with PH that they are happy to stand again.

PH

It was agreed that we should canvass members for a Vice Chair and Show Secretary.

PH to produce Agenda and provide the minutes of the 2017 AGM.

PH to request HR to circulate by email along with request for Vice Chair and Show Secretary.

DH
HR

10 AOB

10.1 Request to Establish a Community Allotment

Liz Pinkney attended and spoke to this item. She outlined the benefits of such an allotment to people in the community and referred to the one that has been established in Crewe linked to the wishing well. She also stated that a campaign is being planned to establish take up.

A quarter plot is requested on our Lawton Road site.

The committee requested more information about how the project would run on a day to day, week to week basis but suggested that, ahead of any decision, the campaign to establish interest and sign up in the project should go ahead.

LP agreed to provide some written information for consideration at the next meeting.

LP

The committee agreed that, in advance of the next meeting and pending the committee's decision, a quarter plot would be held vacant at the Lawton Road site. DP agreed to investigate our insurance position and any additional requirements that may be imposed upon the Association, for this type of community group activity.

AF
DP

11. Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 27th February 2018

The meeting closed at 9.15pm