

**ALSAGER GARDENS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 APRIL 2019**

PRESENT

Members: Adrian Ford (Chairman) David Spall (Trading Secretary) David Pitt (Treasurer) Pauline Hubbard (Vice Chair & Secretary) John Nixon (Rep Talke Rd) Mike Smith (Rep Coronation Ave) Mike Hubbard (Rep Cedar Ave) Jo Begg (Talke Rd) Judith Ford, Lynne McCabe (Minutes)

1 APOLOGIES

Hilary Robinson

ACTION

2. MINUTES of meeting held on **2 April 2019** approved

3. MATTERS ARISING

The AGA sign over the Hut doors has been ordered by PH at a cost of £35. It will be Dark Racing Green background with white lettering and AGA website address. PH told the meeting that she had not yet received a reply from McCarthy & Stone regarding our request our funding towards electricity installation at Cedar Avenue site.

PH

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Account/Cash in hand £5129
Reserve Account £4360 giving a total of £9489

Current Liabilities

Invoice to KG Loach (Hut Supplies) £54

Trading to 24/4/219 - £1662, compared to this time last year £1265. An increase of £394 or 31%.

Rents Received

£4420 - equivalent to 133 x 1/2 plots, 1 x 1/4 plot and 5 Raised Beds

Compared to this time last year £3525, equivalent to 121 1/2 plots, 1 x 1/4 plot.

Subs to date - £692 from 174 members - compared to last year £521 from 149 members, an increase of £171 (equivalent to 25 members)

Rents received - All plots paid up on All Sites. The Treasurer thanks all Site Managers for their help in this respect.

Received the sum of £400 from Alsager Town Council, grant towards the Annual Show.

5. TRADING SECRETARY'S REPORT

DS reported that Trading is up to date and stocks are good. John Innis No1 has been ordered. Stocks of Clover Compost, Buckets of Miracle Glo Slow-Release need replenishing. Py Dust (pyrethrum-based insecticide) to be ordered to combat flying insects including the Alder Leaf Beetle, currently invading and shredding the leaves of fruit trees on Cedar Avenue plots.

MH offered to help collect the new stocks and provide a trailer to do so.

MH

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

(1) **PH** provided a report setting out the current legal status of the Trading Hut.

(2) **TOOL SHEDS** – quotes received of more than £3000 each was prohibitive. It was agreed that a Tool Shed at Talke Rd was needed and **PH** and **JN** will discuss options taking into account levels of security.

PH
JN

(3) **INSURANCE - DP AND PH** confirmed that Trustees Liability cover was in place at a cost of £56.
DP stated that an appraisal of the running costs for the proposed Community Building, taking into account electricity/water/insurance and a charging policy if the building is used by others, was required going forward.

OPEN DAYS (11/12 MAY 2019)

Posters for Open Days were distributed to Site Managers.

PH confirmed she had submitted the article to the Chronicle. The Photographer had been today and an article in this coming weeks Chronicle together with a follow-up article are expected in next weeks' Chronicle.

JB to update our Facebook page.

JB

PH stated that **U3A** are expected to attend the Open Day and provide information along with the **ANSA Composting Team** as part of Composting Week, both will have tables.

Also noted that we will be doing a Book Stall for Gardening and Cookery books so please provide any unwanted books for the day. Unsold stock will be held in the Trading Hut for The Show.

DS enquired if any one had yet been to the Book Emporium to obtain a judging book.

OUTSTANDING TASKS FOR OPEN DAY

PH to update the AGA website.

PH

The large 22' gazebo is to be erected on Tuesday 7th May. A similar gazebo will be erected for the Refreshments.

More tables are required, **MH** to action. All to note

MH

All final arrangements will be made by phone or email.

MH confirmed electric supply for the days will be provided from the Scout Hut.

GARDENS COMPETITION

Thanks, were extended to **DS** for printing of leaflets and brochure.

It was noted that the Banner Production costs were £30 to Chatsworth Printing.

LIBRARY

The AGA Information Desk hosted by **PH AND AF** at Alsager Library was a great success. Newsletters and Membership Forms were distributed.

7. SITE MANAGERS' REPORTS

MIKE HUBBARD, CEDAR AVE

A 4th Raised Bed is planned for Cedar Avenue and slabs laid for a shelter. Small fence has been erected by the toilet area. All plots on the site are now taken. Water butts are being encouraged to keep our water bills down. All rubbish on site will be removed ready for Open Day. Lots of volunteers needed for Open Day. Arrangements have been made for the digger and labour (previously approved by committee at £60) to level the plot at rear. The rubble will be removed for free.

JOHN NIXON, TALKE ROAD

2 x 1/2 plots are now let. Vacant - 1 x 1/2 plot, 2 x 1/4 plots. Raised beds under construction. Additional small cost as soil will be required for 2 Raised Beds as insufficient is on site. JN reported an actual water reading of 1792 which was noted. JN reported a problem with old carpets on the site. **PH** to amend the Rules at the end of year to state that no carpets to be allowed on sites. **PH**

The Newsletter to run an article on this topic **DS**

AP took this opportunity to alert everyone to the danger to children of uncovered water butts on the plots.

PH will check the rules for wording and also include in the risk assessment. **PH**

MIKE SMITH, CORONATION AVE

2 X 1/4 plots and 1 Raised Bed vacant.

Trees - **PH** has not yet heard if felling is approved. A quote has been received for £1,000 plus VAT. Trees in question are marked. **PH** to follow up. **PH**

PH confirmed that water readings are needed for all sites

MS has no cover for Open Day on 11 May. **PH** will try to arrange cover. **PH**

ADRIAN FORD, LAWTON ROAD

Plots vacant - 1 x 1/4, 1 x 1/2, 1 x 3/4 and Raised Beds.

PH has included the availability of plots at Talke Rd and Lawton Rd and their rental cost in the article for the Chronicle

AP has received a request for a wildlife pond on a plot. He has no objection providing it is safe.

8. SUMMER NEWSLETTER

DS is gathering copy for the Summer Newsletter and aims to have it in print by the end of June. Everyone to articles asap. **ALL**

9. DISCUSS AND AGREE DRAFT FINANCIAL PROCEDURES
(See Treasurer's Report, Item 4 above)

DS raised a point in connection with '**5.3 Travel Expenses**' - 'All requests for travel expenses must be approved by the Executive Committee in advance of undertaking the journey/activity.' pointing out that it was difficult at times to have small amounts approved in advance. Discussion ensued and **PH** will re-word the document to include 'expenses for minor journeys' and the section 'Donations, Grants etc". **PH**

Document Approved subject to amendment

10. ANNUAL SHOW 7 SEPTEMBER 2019

AF to check and follow up Sponsors

AF

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 28 MAY 2019 - 8.00PM at the Guide Hall

12. CLOSE OF MEETING - 9.15 PM