

ALSAGER GARDENS ASSOCIATION- MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21st January 2020

PRESENT

Adrian Ford (Chair), David Spall (Trading Secretary), Mike Hubbard (Rep Cedar Avenue), John Nixon (Rep Talke Rd), Mike Smith (Rep Coronation Ave) Pauline Hubbard (Secretary) Judith Ford

1 **APOLOGIES** Lynne McCabe, Derek Hough, David Pitt, Hilary Robinson

2 **MINUTES OF MEETING** held on 3 December 2019 approved

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

- No progress yet on Rotary Cup **AF**
- Tree Works at Coronation Avenue was approved at the Town Council meeting on 3rd December 2019. ANSA have been requested to carry out the work during the winter months to avoid any disturbance to both the allotment holders and nesting birds.
- Asbestos removal at Talke Rd now Complete. Fence remains outstanding and this has been chased with the Town Clerk
- Cedar Ave Open Space and car park– no change at present still chasing

4 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The draft statement of the Annual Accounts was reviewed and received. **David Pitt will provide a summary for the AGM.**

5 **TRADING SECRETARY'S REPORT**

DS reported that the annual JG Loach delivery is currently scheduled to take place on Monday 3rd February 9.30am. MH to organise volunteers to help with the unloading. **MH**

6. **SECRETARY'S REPORT -**

Dog Fouling on Allotment Sites

PH reported that an allotment holder had evidenced fouling on their plot. This is the third complaint we have received. It was agreed that we would post appropriate notices at all sites reminding people of the rules and consequences of allowing dog fouling on the allotment sites. **PH**

Crewe Seed Day – the meeting noted this event

Termination of allotment plot. A discussion took place about items remaining on an allotment plot following the tenant terminating their tenancy. Some items need to be removed from site before the plot can be re-let. PH to write to the tenant requesting removal of the items.

Use of Carpet on Allotment Sites

It was determined that no carpet/ carpet tiles (backed or unbacked) or similar materials of any description should be allowed on site as these contaminate the soil and are hazardous and unpleasant when wet. Any carpet must be removed from site. It was agreed that Allotment Rules will be updated accordingly. **PH**

Tenancy Agreements

Over the last couple of years, the AGA has reviewed its rules, policies, procedures and tenancy documentation. Despite communicating this to all members there remains some doubt as to whether all tenants understand their responsibilities as tenants and what is required of them.

It was agreed that all tenants will be required to sign and return a new tenancy agreement and that this should be done in January next year by enclosing the document with the individual annual plot

rental invoice. Ongoing tenancy will be subject to the signing and returning the new tenancy document.

Allotment Open Days – 2pm – 4pm Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May 2020 Bank Holiday Weekend

We discussed and agreed that this year we would make our Open Days a Themed Event in celebration of VE Day focused on our Cedar Avenue site. The local community will have the opportunity to visit our Cedar Avenue Allotment site and take part in the celebrations on the day. The plan is to offer "themed" refreshments at no charge including cakes in red/white/blue, sandwiches and the traditional cup of English Tea and have music of the era playing in the background and any items of memorabilia. We would also contact key organisations in Alsager to see if they wish to join us in any way, to add to the event.

It was also **agreed that PH should apply for a grant of £250** from Cheshire East (My Bright Idea) to enable us to advertise (banners and posters) and dress the site accordingly and provide simple free refreshments on the two days.

We will need a small team to plan the event and make it happen.

PH

Talke Road will also be open to visitors.

7. SITE MANAGERS' REPORTS AND PLOT VACANCIES

Mike Smith (Coronation Ave) - 3 x 1/4 plots and 1 x Raised Bed available.

John Nixon (Talke Rd) - 1 Raised Bed available

Mike Hubbard (Cedar Ave) – 3 x Raised Beds available following end of year terminations and 1 death. 1/4 plot available following clearance by vacating tenant.

Adrian Ford (Lawton Rd) - 1 x Raised Bed available.

8 AGM 11 FEBRUARY 2020. – Agenda agreed.

The School have confirmed use of the hall. DS to supply refreshments, seeds and potatoes for sale as usual. PH confirmed that the projector would not be used as the numbers attending do not justify the amount of work and time available for production. Also, as the lights had to be on last year this made the presentation difficult for people to see!

DS agreed to do the required printing of documents.

PH to supply in advance.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

25 February 2020 in the Guide Hall, Cedar Avenue

10 CLOSE OF MEETING 8.40 pm

KEY FUTURE DATES

24 Mar 2020 - Committee Meeting. 1)Review Options Open Day - all sites opening or not

28 Apr 2020 - Committee Meeting

9/10 May 2020 - Allotment Open Days

5 Sept 2020 - Annual Show (future dates 04/08/21 - 03/09/22 - 02/09/23 -07/09/24