

**ALSAGER GARDENS ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2021  
'ZOOM' ONLINE MEETING, DUE TO COVID19 (CORONAVIRUS)**

**PRESENT**

Members: Pauline Hubbard, Hilary Robinson, Derek Hough, Mike Hubbard, David Spall, Lynne McCabe

1 **APOLOGIES** Judith Ford/Adrian Ford (due to technical problems with Zoom)  
David Pitt, John Nixon, Mike Smith

2 **MINUTES OF MEETING** held on 8 December 2020 approved.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

**Grant Award for Annual Show** At the Alsager Council Meeting on 12 Jan 2021 the budget was agreed including: 'that a grant of one free room hire of Alsager Civic for the Alsager Gardens Assoc Garden Show be approved in the 2021-22 budget and that it **be included in the budget year on year without the requirement for a grant application.**'

**Winter Newsletter**

Thanks to David Spall for printing the Newsletter and Rules. Thanks to David Pitt for producing the invoices. All were put into walk lists and packaged up for our 'Walkers' for hand delivery between Christmas and New Year.

Thanks go to everyone who helped with the deliveries, particularly as the weather was not too good and it was very cold and wet at times! This is a big undertaking - everyone's contribution is much appreciated.

**Trading Hut PVC Screen**

This has been purchased and is pending installation (Mike Hubbard will install). **MH**

4 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

No report as preparations for Annual Accounts in progress.

MANURE SALES - DS has given list of manure sales to MH. Discrepancy in sales of manure, figures show that 1 load at Talke Rd raised £160 and 3 loads at Cedar Avenue raised £160. It was noted that some members may be waiting for the Trading Hut to open in order to pay. **MH to track.**

5 **TRADING SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Most of the ordered seeds have arrived but Kings are behind with deliveries due to staff problems internally and with wholesalers. All seeds received have been distributed. All plants will be delivered direct from growers. DS to chase to find out delivery times for potatoes. Some potatoes were not available due to poor cropping, but alternatives have been re-ordered.

Help needed for delivery of potatoes and fertilizers next week. Trading Hut has been regularly inspected for weather damage etc. All in good order. **DS**

6 **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

6.1) **Cedar Avenue - Joint Use Open Space** - At the Town Council Meeting held on 12 Jan 2021 the Budget for 2021/22 was approved which included:

**TC19/254 - Cedar Avenue Joint Use Open Space Working Group**

resolved that.

a) the Town Council prioritise the enhancement of the Cedar Avenue Joint Use area and instruct the Working Group to work with Cheshire East Council, St Gabriel's School and the Scout and Guide Groups.

Regular reports will be brought to the Town Council whilst there are no scheduled meetings of the PEC committee.

b) the Council agree to undertake Phase 1 of the project. Funding to be by utilisation of the CIL allocation for 2021/22 of £53,583.10 (£40,654 +£12,929.10) together the use of Capital Reserves, **sum to be determined and approved upon further investigation work.**

c) To approve further consultation with key stakeholders and the wider community on the scheme

d) To approve a desire to transfer of this piece of land to Alsager Town Council from Cheshire East Council by way of a lease agreement and to incorporate up to £2,000 to the draft Town Council budget 2021-22 to cover legal fees.

### **TC19/275 - Cedar Avenue Joint Use Open Space Working Group**

Further to Min Ref TC19/254, 15 December 2020, the Council considered additional budget requirement to carry out the consultation.

Resolved: To approve a sum to be vired from the Consultancy Fees budget, up to the value of £1,500, in the current financial year to be used for consultation on the proposals. If the money is not spent, to be earmarked for use in the following financial year.

This will allow the discussions to commence with CE regarding a possible lease of the land to the Town Council and for the public consultation process to commence.

### **6.2) Dangerous Trees at Cedar Avenue that run along the Valley Brook.**

have now been removed/reduced in height. Following discussion with Cheshire East, the Alsager Town Council Facilities Manager Simon Wootten has been able to get agreement from CE to remove/reduce height of the dangerous trees located along the Valley Brook. We are very appreciative of this as this has been an ongoing health and safety issue for several years.

## **7 SITE MANAGERS' REPORTS**

**Mike Hubbard, Cedar Ave** - 1 full plot given up, half re-let. 2 x 1/4 plots available.

**John Nixon, Talke Rd** - No report **Mike Smith, Coronation Ave** - 1/2 plot vacant

**Adrian Ford, Lawton Rd** - No vacant plots

## **8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 9 MARCH 2021**

It was agreed that the upcoming AGM be held remotely. In view of this and our future monthly Zoom committee meetings, it was proposed and agreed by all that the Society purchases a ZOOM license that will allow our meetings a duration of up to 24 hrs. and for up to 100 participants. It was agreed to initially purchase a 'month on month' license at a cost of around £14 per month. The current cost of the Guide Hall is £12.50 per hour plus an extra cost per 15 minutes if our meetings run over. We can recoup the cost of meetings not held since last March due to Covid. It was

agreed that Meetings continue Zoom for as long as necessary due to Covid restrictions and then to re-assess.

#### **9. TRADING HUT**

Discussion took place regarding re-opening of the Trading Hut in the light of Covid Restrictions and availability of volunteers. David Spall is happy to go ahead with opening and will talk to fellow volunteers Judith and Adrian Ford to support. Secretary PH noted here that she and Mike prefer to totally remain in Lockdown mode as regards working in the Hut for the foreseeable future.

DS to discuss with AF and JF.

**DS/AF/JF**

It was noted that the system of electronic payments to the bank is not the best process for the Treasurer due to reliance on the monthly bank statement and the inconsistency of emails being sent to him re the payment.

#### **10 NEXT NEWS BULLETIN**

**PH** to compile a further Bulletin to include the following:

- Any further information on re-opening of Trading Hut
- Date of 2021 AGM (09/03/2021)
- Further information on joining the AGM by Zoom.
- Trees at Cedar Avenue
- Online payments
- RSPB Garden Bird Watch
- To Chit or Not to Chit - 'potato talk'

**PH/HR/DS**

#### **11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that the Environment Agency have removed wood from the Stream and the brook is running better. This has also been a great concern to Hall Drive residents.

A discussion ensued regarding flooding and lack of drainage on Cedar Avenue. A plot holder has asked about drainage to reduce the excess water and flooding of plots. Alsager Town Council arranged for a specialist inspection. The initial, 1<sup>st</sup> stage, costs to survey were in region of £40,000 with no guarantee that this would resolve the problem. Derek Hough commented that original drains were installed many years ago, but site was reverting to its original state. The water table in this area is extremely high. DS proposed a discussion at another time.

A request has been received for a polytunnel at Lawton Rd. The application was agreed as it fell within the regulatory size and position.

#### **12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 8.00pm

#### **13 Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.**