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Golf Course Allotments Association

Committee Meeting

Saturday 18th January 2025

Present: Tricia Kelly, Tullio Moglia, Jim Clark, Mick Gerrie,
Lindsay Dearden, Imelda O'Brien, V Nolan

Apologies for absence: Alison Joseph, Laura Proffitt, Andrew Lewis

1. Minutes of previous meetings:

Approved following addition of Alison to those present 3/10/24

2. Reports

2.1 Chair (Tricia):

Our Christmas Party (held 8/12/24) was well attended, and that it was free of charge was much appreciated. This was a lively and enjoyable event given to thank anybody and everybody who helped keep the site running throughout the past year.

Oak Trees: Custom Cutters is scheduled for Thursday 13th and Friday 14th February 2025. Tullio to email all affected plot holders this week.

Site Security: The wood chip bin abutting Bidwell Gardens is no longer an issue.

The Community Police Officer now has a site key and will patrol at night, periodically. Their suggestions re. installing CCTV or a fake (???) TV box impractical as the site is not connected to electricity.

Following some discussion it was agreed that motion activated solar powered lighting installed near the Community Hut, Trading Shed and the Winton Ave gates would be more effective (the Bidwell Gdns gates are already covered by a neighbour's CCTV).

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Installation to be part of the larger solar power project being planned by Andrew and Matt Davies.

Following discussion of the second break-in of the storage container, it was agreed that the vertical cylinder lock would not be repaired or replaced again. The container is currently secured with two strong padlocks belonging to V.

Tullio will purchase and fit two more weather-resistant but similar padlocks.

He will also fit new shop locks when V opens the shop on Sunday 26th January.

A number of plot holders have had their site keys copied in recent years so that non-holders can get on site to help with work unsupervised. V to email all plot holders to remind them that this is a breach of site rules: all non-plot holders must be accompanied by tenants at all times, and that ownership of keys must not be shared.

Allotment Recipe Book proposal:

Tricia to meet with plot holders Ming Tang-Evans and Valerie Brueton re. proposed GCAA Community Recipe Book, linked to the Website and (perhaps) the Calendar, which reflects the cultural diversity of our allotment community. All plot holders will be invited to share recipes which feature their own produce.

Haringey Allotment Forum:

This was attended by Tricia. Vicky (Allotment Officer for Haringey Council) distributed notices for sites re. prompt payment of rent invoices (currently in preparation) and a proposal regarding bio-diversity.

Inspections:

In view of the large number of sites across Haringey, in future site inspections may occur only once a year, possibly in July. This needs to be clarified and confirmed. However, Vicky intends to crack down on tenants who repeatedly persist in doing

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last-minute clean ups after receiving dirty plot letters. Site Secretaries need to work with Vicky in highlighting which plots merit close inspection.

Plot-holders need to inform Tullio / the Committee if they are unable to work on their plots due to illness, injury etc, so that help can be organised well in advance of inspections.

Bonfires:

All sites have problems “policing” these. The Council does not favour an outright ban. It is suggested that everyone be encouraged to compost as much as possible. To this end, two suggestions were made:

- a) A communal woodpile for larger branches cut from trees and shrubs, to be chipped for use on site. Proposes a designated and enclosed space (possibly the space near plot 95/the current wood chip bin.
- b) A communal compost heap, also designated and enclosed, for the disposal of green waste.

Both suggestions have merit. However, the discussion which followed foresaw problems re. the need for ‘policing’, given past experiences with skips hired to help plot holders dispose of non-compostable waste.

This matter will be referred back to the Chair of the Allotment Forum, Ian Drury.

Tricia proposed having a Seed Swap at the next Café (Sunday 9th February). She will not be present.

2.2 Site Secretary (Tullio)

80 applicants on waiting list.

15 vacancies to fill. The large number is due to the division of full plots.

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Mick expressed concern about the plots shaded by the oak trees, and proposed both that current tenants could be given the option of moving when other, less shaded, plots came free, and that subsequently, the shaded plots be closed down over time. Tullio replied that when all prospective tenants are shown a plot, they are informed as to potential problems due to its location. If, after accepting a plot, they find it more of a struggle than they anticipated, the option of moving plots (subject to availability) has always been available. There was some discussion of the relative merits of shaded and unshaded plot locations, as well as of the financial implications of closing plots for both the GCAA and Haringey Council.

(Lindsey left the meeting at 11.30am)

2.3: Treasurer (Jim)

Despite the costs incurred as a result of the break-ins, and the Christmas Party, finances remain healthy.

Public Liability Insurance with AON will require renewal 1st February 2025. The premium is £240.00.

The Auditor now has all relevant information and will report in the near future.

Having given 2 years, Jim will be stepping down from the Treasurer's position at the next AGM. He will aim to handover a complete set of accounts by the end of the 2024-25 financial year.

2.4 Probationers (Imelda)

All of them have passed their probation and have been informed. Imelda will liaise with Tullio regarding this year's new plot holders.

2.5 Allotment Shop (V)

V will take orders for seed potatoes in the shop (payment in advance only) during normal opening hours (11am-1pm) on **Sunday 26th January, Saturday 1st**

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February (Burning Day), and Sunday 9th February (Café Day). Sunshine Garden Centre are offering us a generous discount.

A limited range of fresh packets of seeds (allotment staples) will be in stock when the shop reopens fully. Budget allowed £250.

Strulch will also be stocked (subject to availability).

A.O.B:

a) Re. John's questions: there will be no change to the number of bonfires, nor the dates on which they can be held - these are mandated by Haringey Council. There followed some lively discussion about the pros and cons of having bonfires at all. At this time, Haringey Council will not support an outright ban.

b) GCAA Subscriptions for 2025.

These will remain at £5 per plot, per annum. Payable January - end December 2025.

V to email, Tricia to use WhatsApp, reminding as many plot holders as possible of the benefits of paying.

**Date of Next Meeting: SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 10.30AM,
COMMUNITY HUT**

Meeting adjourned 12.14 pm