

1. ATTENDING:

Tim Dilks - Chair
Alison Carling - Treasurer
Abi Macdonald-Grute - Trading Secretary
Steve Elliott - Sheet Rep
David Mogg - Membership Secretary and Webmaster
Georgie Thurlby - Association Secretary

2. APOLOGIES:

Margaret Davis - Sheet Rep

3. MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

The committee reviewed the minutes from the last meeting on 28th July 2021 and considered whether updates were necessary on any of the actions.

In addition, Abi confirmed that she had prepared a rough draft of a communications strategy and had sent to David for his feedback.

ACTION: Abi to send communications strategy draft to all committee members for feedback.

The committee approved the minutes of the last meeting.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer provided a brief update. In the current account we have £1341.32 and in the deposit account £646.52.

There is an invoice from KD Loach for £122 for last set of stock we ordered.

ACTION: Alison or Abi to send copy of invoice to Steve so he can check stock prices.

There is also a £5 membership to pay in.

5. TRADING SHED UPDATE

The Trading Secretary provided a brief update. Abi and Steve have been talking to Steve Amos and Martin Cox at Adhurst - they are willing to push the Shed to the Adhurst allotmenters and are happy for Abi to mention it at their AGM. They want to immediately order two pallets of manure as we get it cheaper than they can - then they will sell at cost to their members. It will be stored at the Shed initially, then moved to Adhurst so we will not need to worry about storage. Confirmed that manure is available in the Shed for Sheet and Tilmore allotment holders too, if anyone is interested.

The Adhurst members are also interested in us doing their potato order via the Trading Shed.

Abi is also going to visit the Liss allotment trading shed to see what they do.

Confirmed that the shed is almost fully painted.

Abi spent around £24 on paint for the shed.

ACTION: Abi to send Alison receipt and reconcile money.

6. KINGS SEED ORDER

This was discussed at length at the previous meeting. David had found out the following from Kings:

Your members can order directly with us quoting the account reference KA521, to receive the seed discount and pay for individual posting to their own addresses rather than the bulk orders.

- They can order via telephone or still send the order form directly to us themselves, or they can email orders to me directly again quoting the account reference.
- There is also the facility to order online to receive the discount but this has to be done via my website management colleague Hugo,
- Postage to own addresses is £2.00 for all items, except potatoes and fruits this year, if an individual order has either potatoes and/or fruits there is also one postage charge of £3.50, making the total charge for postage £5.50.

Agreed that it would be useful to find out whether Kings would be able to offer us a new code, so that we can make sure it is only circulated to association members (as it has always been the same code and we have reason to believe that non-members have been using it previously). If not, agreed that we will proceed with the existing code (but it will need to be checked on the website as it doesn't appear to be working currently).

ACTION: David to confirm this with Kings.

An additional benefit of this approach, rather than the committee centrally co-ordinating the seed order, is that members can order seeds year round rather than just once a year, so Kings will hopefully receive more orders as a result.

7. MAILING LISTS ISSUE

Confirmed that the Association maintains its own email list of members who have consented to being contacted by the Association and that this list is as up to date as it can be. However, any communications with all ploholders (i.e. not just Association members) need to continue to go via PTC/SPC.

8. MEMBER SURVEY

After the last meeting Georgie had circulated a link to a survey to be sent out to members to try and find out how much interest there was in arranging talks and workshops etc as well as what members wanted from their membership of the association, and had received feedback from Abi and Alison. The committee agreed that the survey could go out to ploholders via PTC/SPC.

ACTION: Georgie to arrange.

9. PTC ALLOTMENT USER GROUP MEETING ON 16TH SEPTEMBER

Confirmed that Georgie will be attending and Abi will be if schedule allows.

Abi raised the following matters that she would like to be brought up at the meeting:

Cultivation standards and plot turnover: What will the council be doing about the unkempt plots? Of the 78 plots we have, how many are let? How many have received letters? How many people are on the waiting list?

Allotment communal areas maintenance: Since Dugg left about two or three weeks ago, the allotment communal areas has not been mown. We would like to know what the schedule is going to be.

Greenhouse/polytunnel/fruit cage ruling: We would like some clarity about the terms and conditions vs allotment policies. Would also be worth clarifying the council's definition of a fruit cage - does this only apply to permanent structures?

ACTION: Tim to send Abi a copy of the reply he received from Kathryn about the sizes of structures.

Bottom left of allotment site - large hole in the fence that needs reporting to the council.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

August Newsletter - Alison had sent round a draft for the August newsletter to members. Agreed that the newsletter was excellent and committee members would send back comments and anything else to include via email.

ACTION: committee members to review the newsletter draft and feed back to Alison.

Confirmed that the AGM has been set for 10th November and the date would be publicised to members in the newsletter. Agreed that we would set up a Zoom meeting as an alternative to a physical meeting if the Covid situation worsens as we go into autumn, but this would need to be decided closer to the time. Further details of the AGM including agenda etc would be agreed at the October committee meeting.

Tim announced his intention to stand down at the AGM so nominations for the next Chair would be required.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

Date of next meeting: 7.30pm, Wednesday 13th October