

**North Watford Allotment & Garden Society**  
**Minutes of 07<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Committee Meeting**  
**Venue Calowland Shop**

**Present Tom Goulder Chair**

**Steve Jakeman Treasurer**

**Dave Rusher Project Manager**

**Suzy French Membership Secretary**

**Committee Members; James Single, Lynn Wheeler & Emily Whitbread (both newly elected)**

**Apologies; Linda Hallahan, Val Goulder, Emily Whitbread**

Meeting opened with a welcome from the Chair. The minutes of the previous meeting in November were read and approved by the committee.

**Matters arising;**

The Committee unanimously voted Emily Whitbread and Lynn Wheeler onto the Committee. Welcome ladies.

It was agreed that all Franchi Seeds with a sow by date of 2024 be sold to members at cost £1.40 per packet.

Seed potatoes may be in short supply due to many weather based crop failures. May explain why the Society hasn't heard from its chosen supplier re delivery date

Tool sale, no response from the email/newsletter sent by the chair. Will try again when/if the seed potatoes arrive.

Due to time constraints, Hot Knives were not discussed at the Zoom meeting, but the Chair WhatsApp'd Committee after the meeting saying he's happy to deal with the Risk Assessment forms at GM and asked if any movement at CL, as CL being the busiest shop, was chosen to trial a hot knife. The committee were previously informed that spare batteries are available.

### **Treasurer**

The Society is solvent.

Steve has researched Bird Boxes for the two main Allotment sites in North Watford and has passed this onto the Chair. GM is ready to install boxes.

Steve has drafted a proposal for a new clause to the Constitution to remove people from the Society for Malicious and harassing conduct. This was agreed and voted in by the Committee and will be ratified at the Society's AGM in May 2024.

The aim of this clause is to protect shop volunteers from abuse from members. It was suggested that this clause be printed and placed in the Society's two notice boards.

Steve has contacted Southern Trident to set up an account for buying Peat-Free Compost.

### **Project Manager**

The stopcock in the CL shop hasn't been replaced yet, but Gabriel has the part. Dave will liaise with Gabriel and fix a date for this work to be carried out asap. Therefore this job is ongoing.

The committee would like to plant more trees & shrubs at CL, subject to consultation with allotment officer Rob Hopkins and allotment

tenants in the area where it is proposed the trees etc., are to be planted. On-going. Likewise, bird/bat boxes at CL.

ANPR cameras have now been installed at Callowland shop and has been paid for.

Dave has distributed the two First Aid Kits to both Allotment Shops.

Maintenance highlighted at CL re clearing gutters is on hold until most of the leaves are down.

LED lighting has been installed at CL. Dave's lighting contact is to be asked to visit GM with Dave, with a view of installing same there.

Dave says this should happen in January as his contact is away.

### **AOB**

As the Zoom connection was terminated shortly after 20.00, there wasn't time for this feature.

As we do not usually have a Committee Meeting in January, the next meeting will be the 1st February 2024 at the Callowland Garden Shop.

Please use the WhatsApp forum if you have anything to bring to the Committee.