

# North Watford Allotment and Gardening Society

## Minutes of Committee Meeting

**Date / Time:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

**Venue:** Callowland shop

**Present:** Tom Goulder - Chair  
Val Goulder - General Secretary  
Dave Rusher - Project Manager  
Steve Jakeman - Treasurer  
Suzy French - Membership Secretary

**Committee Members:** James Single,

**Apologies:**, Linda Hallahan.

**Visitors:** Alison Halfnight, Lynn Wheeler, Emily Whitbread

The meeting opened with a welcome from the chair who introduced the 3 visitors to everyone

- 1. The Chair provided minutes of the last committee meeting** held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023, and extraordinary meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the chair.

### **2. Matters Arising:**

- It was minuted that, following the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April, Tom wrote and sent a letter of apology to Chris
- New membership cards have been printed and will be available in the shops from next weekend. Cards for next 3 years have also been printed.
- It was questioned whether the stopcock in CL shop had been replaced by Gabriel: Dave agreed to check this out
- Hot knives: the idea is generally accepted for volunteers who wish to use it, however we need to know if the battery is replaceable/rechargeable. A risk assessment must also be performed. Emily said she could get us the relevant form from her workplace
- Dave has got First Aid kits but they have not yet been distributed
- Seeds are on sale in the shops, including flower seeds. Suppliers are Kings' and Franchi's. Only Kings' are sale or return.
- Seed potatoes and onion sets were ordered from Boston Bulbs (recommended by Hort Supplies), however even after various emails/calls we still haven't had an order confirmation and there is some consternation that the order will actually be delivered. We decided to wait until beginning of December and if no confirmation is forthcoming, we will cancel the order and look elsewhere. It would be best to get a quote from another company meantime, in case it is necessary. Tom will check.

- Tool sale: to be held in the Spring. James to do a poster requesting any old tools/pots etc for the sale
- New supplier: K G Loach to replace Hort Supplies. Min order £350ex VAT to qualify for free delivery. We need to set up an account with them
- Solely peat free compost to be sold in the shops after all shop stocks of Mother Earth are finished
- Birdboxes: Steve to get information on suitable ones from his contact in Cassiobury Friends. More tree planting at CL, Dave needs to consult with Rob first as there was some contention after the last planting. Distribution of bare rooted trees by WBC on 9<sup>th</sup> December
- Maintenance highlighted by Dave at CL: gutters to be cleaned, ivy removal. It was also suggested that the piece of land adjacent to the CL shop be developed in some way.
- Website: very underused. Has been renewed until next year. We need someone to take it on. Dave suggested the daughter of Gloria Hanzel, a plot holder at CL and he will approach her about it

### **3. Treasurer:**

- Accounts had been provided by Steve via email
- Steve commented that any comment from NWAAGS must first be endorsed by the Committee.
- At present we cannot evict anyone from the Society: The constitution needs to be amended so this becomes possible in future.
- Still no communication from WBC re the lease.

### **4. Project Manager:**

- Dave has provided the Committee with a quote for an update of the CCTV system, from 4 to 8 cameras with ANPR. The cameras have proved themselves invaluable on various occasions so far. It will cost approx. £1500. We need to look into the possibility of grants from local and county councillors to help fund it. A unanimous vote of interest was taken
- 7 LED 5ft lights have been donated for CL shop by an associate of Dave's. Dave to phone electrician to have them installed. Tom to email donator on behalf of Committee to thank him.
- Dave questioned if the scales in the shops had been calibrated, it appeared they have not. He will find someone to do it

### **5. AOB:**

- The suggestion that the tenancy agreement be translated into other languages was opposed to as it would create too many problems of interpretation, and other issues like which languages to choose.

Meeting closed at 20.00.

Next meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

