

North Watford Allotment and Gardening Society

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Date / Time: Thursday 1st February 2024

Venue: Callowland shop

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

Committee Members: James Single, Lynn Wheeler, Emily Whitbread

Apologies: Linda Hallahan. Steve Jakeman

Visitors: Robert Barnes

The meeting opened with a welcome from the chair who introduced Robert, who has updated the Society website.

1. **The Chair provided minutes of the last committee meeting** held on 7th December 2024.

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the chair.

2. **Matters Arising:**

- Report from Robert: all old and out-of-date info has been removed from the website, all data consolidated, and new info added. He advises to add info regarding the Constitution, policies, data protection, conditions for ejection of members. Links to Veolia, important for funding. Recommended Admins be able to post direct to website via their Facebook posts.
- Robert was thanked for all his help and hard work.
- Seed potatoes are selling well. Advertising and asking members what they want has proved to work well
- Rob Hopkins has offered the Society a spare plot on Garston Manor for tree planting/wild flowers. It would need a lot of work by volunteers to clear the site
- Racking for Callowland shop was proposed to replace old wooden ones and update shop. Dave suggested going to Costco to look at what they have there
- AGM to be held May 1st 2024. Hall to be booked. Speaker to be decided upon, the Mayor was suggested. Dave to ask him

3. **Treasurer:**

- Accounts had been provided by Steve via email
- Hot knives we wanted were out of stock but other brands are available.

Risk assessments now completed for both shops. Training video to be done for shop volunteers

4. Project Manager:

- Dave pointed out that we need an accident book for both shops, which need to be in place before we start using the hot knives.
- Stopcock at Callowland to be done.
- Dave confirmed that the cameras were installed at Callowland: the new device in, the ANPR up and running and the old device set aside to be installed at Garston Manor. Tom said that he hadn't realised that the work had been completed.

5. Membership Secretary:

- Membership going well, we have approx. 150 members signed up so far this year

6. Tree Planting:

Tom proposed the idea of planting trees with a plaque in Cassiobury Park Peace Garden to commemorate 110yrs of the Society. It's not certain if Society formed in 1905 or 1915, more investigation needed. Robert said he would try to find contacts for us to see if viable project

7. AOB

- Dave stated that he was offended by Tom over the issue of the installation of cameras at Callowland, as he felt his integrity was being questioned. He stated that he does not want to attend any future Committee meetings. Tom apologised. Dave and James left for a previous appointment
- Lynn proposed seed-swap and plants to sell in allotment shops with proceeds to Peace Hospice/other local charity
- Allotment Forum on zoom on Tues February 27th 2024

Meeting closed at 17.15. Next meeting Thursday 7th March 2024