

<b>Shepherd's Hill Allotment Association Committee Meeting Minutes 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 2024</b>		
	<p><b>Present;</b> Juliet Mann, Jill Russell, Ian Potts, Garry Doyland, Annie Griffiths, Nevil Yildiz, Trevor Wyatt, Jo Sheehan.</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Julie Yogasundram</p>	
1.	<p><b><u>Minutes of last meeting: accuracy</u></b></p> <p>No corrections. Minutes approved.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Matters arising</u></b></p> <p>Jo will write to Patrick Cozier at Highgate Wood School to ask for an update on the proposal to develop the playing field into a cricket/football sports facility.</p>	JS
3.	<p><b><u>Maintenance</u></b></p> <p>Garry managed to source some unwanted MOT hardcore from a friend, and he and his son have laid it to fill in some of the potholes along the track. A big improvement, and the composition of the material seems to allow the rain to drain through. Ian and Garry will order another cubic metre (approx. £80) and possibly some gravel boards to continue improving the track. Next maintenance working party will do this (6<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am).</p> <p>Haringey have repaired the worst bits of the perimeter fence buckled by the fallen tree, using 1.5 sections of Heras fencing. [post meeting note: Victoria informed us this work cost £600!]</p> <p>Trading shed repairs – Ian had circulated quotes both for repairing the trading shed roof, and for demolishing and preparing a concrete base ready to install a supplied shed. Only one builder wanted to quote to repair the roof, the others said it wasn't worth the trouble and would be easier to demolish and start again.</p> <p>Jo summarised these quotes (see attached spreadsheet). She will talk with the insurers and clarify what if any additional information they need.</p> <p>We discussed the problem of oversized trees on the site. There are many trees, including non-fruit ones, that exceed the 3m height limit. If left unchecked these will get taller and taller, casting more shade, and become ever more costly to prune. Pruning these trees can be an expensive outlay for tenants. Garry offered to undertake a survey so we can assess the size of the problem and how best to tackle it.</p>	<p>IP/GD</p> <p>JS</p> <p>GD</p>

	<p>Ian will ask Nick Finley to use his chainsaw to take down the dead apple tree on the communal plot.</p>	IP
5.	<p><b><u>Site inspections/probationers and lettings</u></b></p> <p>There is currently just one plot to let. One plot that had been hard to let has recently been let, when we were able to ascertain there was less shade than originally thought. This plot (40) would still benefit if some pruning could be arranged of the large sycamore on the other side of the boundary fence.</p> <p>There are currently 10 probationers, some showing impressive progress. These probationers reported that they waited 3 – 4 years, considerably less than we currently say on our website. We agreed it'd be useful for Julie to bring a report on the waiting list to the next meeting and for us to review what we say about the waiting list on our website.</p> <p>We expect another site inspection to take place very soon.</p>	JY
5.	<p><b><u>Trading shed</u></b></p> <p>Annie and Liz are putting together the potato order for next year. Annie will send Jill details to send in a separate email.</p> <p>At the moment new orders are on hold pending the trading shed renovation, although this might be some time away so we perhaps need to reconsider this.</p>	AG
6.	<p><b><u>Communication</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next maintenance working party: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 10.30</li> <li>• Other dates for the diary, including bridge sessions</li> <li>• Bonfire ban</li> <li>• Report back on no-dig discussion</li> <li>• Clearing rubbish – lovejunk website can find licensed rubbish collectors. Beth Brown is happy for her email (<a href="mailto:bethjoybrown@gmail.com">bethjoybrown@gmail.com</a>) to be used for others to contact her who want to get rid of rubbish, then she will co-ordinate.</li> <li>• Opening up the Barn for drop-ins</li> <li>• Winter warmer date: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 12 – 2pm</li> <li>• Potato day Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025</li> </ul> <p>Following a lengthy discussion, we voted on a bonfire ban from 1<sup>st</sup> October. This was passed by 5 votes to 3. This will include both open fires and those in incinerators.</p>	JR

	<p>The arguments for a ban are that burning is harmful both for the environment and for human health. See for example: <a href="https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/environment/noise-and-nuisance/bonfires-and-burning">https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/environment/noise-and-nuisance/bonfires-and-burning</a></p> <p>We have now established an alternative to burning on site by creating a successful communal composting area where tenants can take their excess green and woody waste.</p> <p>As an interim measure, we may announce controlled communal bonfires in designated areas on the site on certain days, with instructions of what will and will not be permissible to burn.</p> <p>We will write to inform the allotment officer of this decision, request Haringey's support of it, and check whether a tenant ignoring this ban and continuing to have bonfires would be issued with an NCN.</p> <p>Nevil mentioned that the Orchard Meadow project has experience of using BioChar, and he will contact them to find out more information.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>NY</p>
7.	<p><b>Barn events and Future plans</b></p> <p>A tenant has kindly donated some gardening books which we will sell at coffee mornings and lunches.</p> <p>Café at the Barn: 11<sup>th</sup> September  Discussion and lunch: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept  Café at the Barn: 9<sup>th</sup> October  Discussion and lunch: 27<sup>th</sup> October</p> <p>Date for working party for spring clean of Barn 20<sup>th</sup> October 11.00</p> <p>Garry has organised some bridge sessions.  Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> September 10.30  Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2pm  Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 10.30  All welcome, education provided!</p> <p>Sue Webster wrote into info@ offering to run some sewing workshops. We will ask if she's free to have a chat about it and work out what might work best, at the next Barn lunch on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.</p> <p>We discussed how we might open up the Barn more for people to use as a shared space. We will put something in the next newsletter along the following lines: "We're going to trial opening the Barn for people who want to pop in and have a place to drink your own tea and coffee. If you'd like to help with opening the Barn up more please get in touch".</p>	<p>JM/All</p> <p>JR/AG/JM</p>

8.	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p>Jo had circulated a spreadsheet summarising the quotes for repair and rebuild of the Trading Shed, and the likely impact on our finances.</p>	
9.	<p><b><u>Allotment Forum</u></b></p> <p>Juliet will attend the forthcoming one in October.</p>	
11.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>Post-meeting note: Jill circulated an email from Annabel Foskett, asking us to set up a consultation meeting with tenants about the Japanese knotweed on the site. In discussion with committee members after the meeting, she also circulated our response to AF, asking her to address issues we raised in an email to her over two years ago, and have never received a response.</p>	
12.	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b></p> <p>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2pm. Volunteer to chair...?</p>	