

**Shepherd's Hill Allotment Association
Committee Meeting Minutes
Draft minutes 23rd Sept 2025**

Present: Juliet Mann, Jill Russell, Nevil Yildiz, Liz Denver, Garry Doyland, Annie Griffiths, Ian Potts.

Apologies: Trevor Wyatt, Julie Yogasundram, Jo Sheehan.

1. **Minutes of last meeting: accuracy**

A couple of minor corrections made. Minutes approved.

2. **Matters arising**

The date for potato day is now 8th Feb 2026.

Jill had sent the quote for us repairing the fence by the wood chip bays to Haringey as Victoria had requested, and also sent a reminder, but still awaiting response.

Following the second engagement meeting Haringey organised to discuss the JKW on site, they had requested a collective response on the options they'd identified. We invited all committee members and affected plot holders to give their comments and collated these into an email, sent to Haringey on 20th September.

Esther's bee talk this month is postponed. Instead Jenny has offered to contribute to a discussion on growing flowers for cutting.

Julie to circulate minutes on her and Nev's meeting with the probation JY officer about having volunteers on site.

3. **Maintenance**

Good progress was made at the recent working party on the communal compost site. A lot of material was shifted, and aerating pipes were added. There's still more to do, to organise the site into three separate bays.

Richard cut down the bay tree on 8A as agreed and this plot has now been let. Ian reported that there are 2 sycamores there that also need cutting down, we approved the quote of £200 for Richard to do this. IP

Future maintenance working party jobs as winter approaches will be putting down more hardcore on both the Montenotte and Wood Vale tracks, and clearing drains.

We briefly discussed putting a toilet on site, but agreed that we probably need a separate meeting to focus on this properly. One suggestion is to hire a portaloos for a month to see how much it is used. Ian and Jill will look at updating the toilet pros and cons document they wrote a few years ago and then will recirculate, as a starting point. IP/JR

4. Site inspections/probationers and lettings

A successful site inspection had taken place, with only 4 NCNs issued [post meeting note: one rescinded]. Plot 8A has now been let. Plot 106 tenant has left London, and Juliet is showing this one to the next person on the waiting list.

Six plots identified as needing 'nudge letters'. Jill to send. JR

5. Trading shed

Thanks to Ian for our smart new notice boards both inside and outside the trading shed. Annie to order more keys for the outside one. AG

6. Communication

- Thanks to those who helped at maintenance working party on communal compost area
- Response to the recent notices about the bonfire ban – remind tenants that the appropriate forum/route for this discussion is to request it as an agenda item at the next AGM.
- Message from Jill and Ian to ask for any contributions to the research on the history of the site.
- Dates for the diary.

A tenant had written in asking if we might consider buying some heavy duty carts in addition to the wheelbarrows. We discussed this but will respond saying that we have recently spent quite a lot of money on wheelbarrows, which seem to do the job, and that anything heavier/wider might cause damage to the paths. Julie to reply from info@ JY

A tenant had written in asking if they might use the Barn for the upcoming Sukkot festival. There was unanimous agreement that the Barn and site should not be used for any religious or political meetings/activity. Julie to reply to tenant, and Jill and Julie to draft a Barn policy that reflects this decision. JY JR/JY

7. Barn events and Future plans

- Sunday 28th September: barn discussion and lunch. Jenny will talk about growing flowers for cutting
- Café at the Barn: 8th October.
- Barn lunch and discussion 26th October.
- Café at the Barn: 12th November

Future dates:

- Winter warmer: Sunday 30th November 12-3
- January 18th: Sunday discussion about Biochar. Nev will ask Alan from the Meadow Orchard if he will come along to share his experience. Garry to facilitate the discussion.
- Potato day: 8th Feb
- AGM: April 26th 12.00
- Plant sale – 10th May

Centenary plans:

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Will ask Julie for an update.

Liz is aiming to have the calendar ready for sale at the winter warmer. LD

Jill and Ian are continuing with the research into the history of the site for both the planned booklet and Ian's film. Jill's graphic designer friend has got some quotes for printing a 24 page booklet (or may be less, depending on number/size of maps, images etc.) and the cost price works out at about £2.00 each for printing 200 copies. We need to decide whether to sell at cost price or with some profit, for SHA funds, or perhaps a charity donation. IP/JR

8. **Finance**

We agreed that we will make a donation from the Winter Warmer to Hornsey Food Bank, continuing our link with them of donating fruit and veg during the summer months. We will agree the amount to donate after the WW. Jill to also ask someone she knows who volunteers there if they take toiletries. JR

9. **Allotment Forum**

No meeting to report.

11. **AOB**

Garry has DoE students doing their silver awards who need to do a fixed period of volunteering and is proposing that he offers them volunteering opportunities on the allotment. For example, helping with the communal compost area, or cleaning/tidying/serving in the Barn. Probably 3 or 4 students, around 15 years old, maybe doing 2 hours volunteering for 2 weeks over a 6 month period. Agreed it sounds a great idea. GD

Nev agreed to liaise with a tenant who was interested in preparing an Arts Council application for an allotment-focused photography?? project. NY

12. **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 4th Nov at 2pm