

	<p align="center">Shepherd's Hill Allotment Association Committee Meeting Minutes Draft minutes 4th November 2025</p>	
	<p>Present; Juliet Mann, Jill Russell, Garry Doyland, Annie Griffiths, Ian Potts, Trevor Wyatt, Julie Yogasundram (chair), Jo Sheehan</p> <p>Apologies: Nevil Yildiz, Liz Denver.</p>	
1.	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting: accuracy</u></p> <p>To add: that we will agree the amount to donate to the Hornsey Food Bank from the Winter Warmer after the event.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Matters arising</u></p> <p>Re. the history booklet Jill is working on, she will ask Hornsey Historical Society and the House of Books about distributing/selling it and how many copies they might be interested in.</p> <p>Jill and Ian still to update the document previously prepared on the pros and cons of having a toilet on site.</p> <p>Annie has got spare keys for the noticeboard. Lynn has donated a heater for the trading shed.</p> <p>Jill has written to Victoria and Alex yet again to ask for a decision about their contribution to the fence repair behind the wood chip bays.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>JR</p>
	<p><u>Bonfire Ban</u></p> <p>Jill and Jo had prepared a background paper for discussion, noting that 8 people had written to info@ requesting we reconsider the ban.</p> <p>We identified 3 main options for us as a committee going forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make a decision to keep the ban 2. Make a decision to reverse the decision 3. Seek views from plot holders. <p>There is also the option to 'soften' the ban by keeping it largely in place but allowing some limited burning.</p> <p>Jill had also circulated a timeline of the various discussions about the bonfire ban since 2021.</p>	

	<p>Julie asked everyone to state their views about the best option going forward. Six were in favour of sticking with the ban but at the same time all six recognised the need to respond to the requests for further consultation, and therefore supported having a poll to seek views of all plot holders. Two members were in favour of softening the ban and allowing some form of burning. The two committee members not present had also indicated being in favour of some form of compromise.</p> <p>We agreed as a committee that having a poll was preferable to holding a consultation meeting, as it will hopefully reflect a higher percentage of tenants' views.</p> <p>Jo will draft an introduction to the poll, setting out the reasons why we're doing it, some bullet points on the pros and cons of bonfires and the ban, and something about the wood burner in the Barn.</p> <p>Jill to investigate using Google Forms for the poll and to draft the questions. We will also have hard copies available in the Trading Shed and Barn. The votes allowed will be one per tenant and per plot.</p> <p>We discussed what response rate would be acceptable to base a decision on. One member disagreed but the rest of the committee agreed a 50% response rate would mean the decision could be considered a democratic one, based on at least half plot holders participating.</p> <p>We also discussed what percentage voting yes or no to the bonfire ban would give a clear mandate for a policy decision. It was decided to set this at 60%, a threshold level that is commonly used in voting situations. One member disagreed with this.</p> <p>We will aim to get the poll out by the end of the month, and leave it open for around two weeks.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>JR</p>
3.	<p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <p>Ian has started digging a trench along by the side of the Barn to improve drainage. He is continuing with this and then will also do something similar along the front of the Barn.</p> <p>Plot 106 has donated some metal fencing that we might be able to use somewhere.</p> <p>The border between the communal plot and 8B needs some maintenance work at some point.</p> <p>There is ongoing tree work to do.</p>	<p>IP</p>

	<p>The DoE volunteer students have been a great success and done a good job of spring cleaning the Barn. Garry plans to get them doing some work on the green waste site next.</p> <p>Ian suggested that it was more appropriate for us to think about the green waste site as a place to collect green waste rather than calling it a communal composting area, although eventually the green waste will rot down.</p> <p>We will publicise a maintenance working party this Sunday 9th November to continue organising the green waste plot.</p>	GD
4.	<p><u>Site inspections/probationers and lettings</u></p> <p>No new plots to let.</p> <p>We'll put a reminder in the newsletter that beginning of Dec. is the deadline for giving notice of giving up a plot to avoid paying rent for the following year.</p> <p>Following discussion of a particular case, we agreed that an existing tenant from our site, or another Haringey site, can apply to go on the waiting list for a plot in the normal manner, but would need to terminate their existing plot before renting a new one.</p>	JR
5.	<p><u>Trading shed</u></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Communication</u></p> <p>We agreed it would be helpful to have a code of conduct for the committee. Jill will look at what the NAS or other bodies have in the way of templates.</p> <p>To go in next newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance working party • Decision about polling views on bonfire ban • Reminder about Dec deadline for giving notice on plot • Potato reminder • Winter Warmer reminder 	<p>JR</p> <p>JR</p>
7.	<p><u>Barn events and Future plans</u></p> <p>Agreed the bread and soups for the Winter Warmer (Leek and potato, Broccoli and almond, Dahl).</p> <p>Lot of cakes will be needed.</p>	<p>JR/JM/AG</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>Will maybe try and sell some wreath frames rather than having a wreath making workshop this year.</p> <p>Julie circulated a timetable of planned events celebrating the centenary next year.</p> <p>Julie offered to lead on the cookbook.</p> <p>Annie to liaise with Andrew Lidstone about a date for the brass band.</p> <p>Annie to talk to Jenny Gledhill about a possible jazz performance.</p>	<p>JY</p> <p>AG</p> <p>AG</p>
8.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>Jo circulated her financial report, showing the healthy position we are in.</p> <p>At the next meeting we should discuss whether to go ahead with financing the repairs to the fencing behind the wood chip bays, if we still haven't heard back from Haringey.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Allotment Forum</u></p> <p>Julie had circulated minutes of the recent meeting.</p>	
11.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>We agreed to have a confidential part of the minutes if necessary where we can record discussions about individual tenants.</p> <p>We will open the waiting list in January, on the same basis as in previous years. Juliet to confirm how many plots we've let this year.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>JR</p>
12.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>8th December at 2pm</p>	