

<b>Shepherd's Hill Allotment Association Committee Meeting Minutes Minutes 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026</b>	
	<p><b>Present;</b> Juliet Mann, Jill Russell, Garry Doyland (chair), Annie Griffiths, Julie Yogasundram, Nevil Yildiz, Liz Denver</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Trevor Wyatt, Jo Sheehan, Ian Potts</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>We will discuss devolved management responsibilities at the first committee meeting after the AGM.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Maintenance</u></b></p> <p>Garry reported that he and the DoE students had done more work levelling and putting down gravel by the Wood Vale gate, which seems to be working in preventing puddling. They also did some improvements to the path by the Barn, adding gravel and woodchip.</p> <p>There had been a fantastic response to the working party on the communal compost site, with over 30 volunteers during the day. The best strategy for organising the site is still being debated – the sub-committee are progressing this. Once this has been agreed we will put up a new noticeboard with instructions to ensure that everyone knows the 'rules' of what to put where.</p> <p>Some volunteers also helped prepare the ground by the Montenotte track by the trading shed in preparation for carrying out the fencing work we have agreed there.</p> <p>The next maintenance working party will be on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April.</p>
5.	<p><b><u>Site inspections/probationers and lettings</u></b></p> <p>We will put an item in the next newsletter reminding tenants that with the weather improving, now is the time to get plots ready for the spring inspection.</p> <p>One plot available to let, and waiting to hear about a second one. And two probationers.</p>

6.	<p><b><u>Trading shed</u></b></p> <p>The trading shed is busy, with compost and manure flying off the shelves – yesterday’s takings were £502.</p> <p>Annie and Liz would like to find a third person to help with the work involved, particularly with deliveries.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>Communication with plot holders</u></b></p> <p>Items for newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still some potatoes, shallots and onions available</li> <li>• Reminder to make sure plots are spring inspection-ready, including a visible plot number</li> <li>• Dates for the diary</li> <li>• Reminder to keep pathways clear, including any overhanging branches</li> <li>• Item about ponds and ensuring that children do not stray on to other people’s plots</li> <li>• Reminder about bonfire ban</li> <li>• Notice of AGM will be going out shortly, consider joining the committee, contact info@ for more information.</li> <li>• Call out for recipe testers.</li> </ul> <p>We heard back from the insurance company re. the claim for items stolen from sheds last year, pointing out that the terms of the policy are that sheds must be securely locked. Julie to write to those who had hoped to make a claim. We will point out this condition of our insurance in a future newsletter.</p> <p>Some tenants had asked about whether an occasional skip could be organised. The committee discussed this and agreed that from past experience it was too difficult to police appropriate use. However, we will suggest that if some are keen to organise, individuals or groups of tenants could arrange a skip themselves.</p>	JY
8.	<p><b><u>Barn events and Future plans, including AGM</u></b></p> <p>Wed 8<sup>th</sup> April – Café at the Barn  Sun 12<sup>th</sup> April – Maintenance working party  Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April – AGM followed by lunch (sandwiches and cake)  Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May – Plant sale  Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June – mid-summer party and jazz band (6 – 9pm)  Sun 9<sup>th</sup> August – return of the fantastic brass band  Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Sept – Centenary Plant Show (Nicola will help Juliet)</p> <p><b>AGM</b>  Julie to chair (for the last year)  Jill to prepare papers (for the last year)</p>	

	<p>Notice of AGM to go out 21 days before i.e. by 5<sup>th</sup> April.  Jill will compile annual report, <b>contributions from committee members needed by 12<sup>th</sup> April</b> please:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barn events and fundraising (Jill)</li> <li>• Maintenance (Ian)</li> <li>• Lettings (Juliet) and Waiting list (Julie)</li> <li>• Trading shed (Annie and Liz)</li> </ul> <p>We also need to produce Plans for 26/27:  Maintenance (Ian)  Barn events and activities (all)</p> <p>We are hoping that some new tenants might be interested in joining the committee. Julie raised the suggestion, discussed before, of committee members serving a fixed term, as a way of ensuring that there is regularly 'new blood' on the committee.</p> <p><b>Toilet</b>  This was something there was broad support for at last year's AGM and the committee had agreed to look into it. Garry had got some prices for a temporary portaloo, which would be a way of gauging demand and use of a toilet facility before committing to a permanent one. Garry to go back to supplier to get more details on price, what preparatory work is needed for siting the toilet, what cleaning/servicing is involved. We discussed the possibility of having one for several months during the summer to coincide with the various events planned.</p> <p><b>Cookbook</b>  Julie is collecting lots of recipes, and we will ask for volunteers to test some of the recipes, as a way of involving more people (and making sure the recipes work!)</p> <p><b>History booklet</b>  Jill reported that these are selling well, with approx. 160 sold, 40 still left, to sell in the trading shed, at the plant sale, and at the next Haringey Allotment Forum meeting, and a Haringey local history day in May. We may consider getting more printed for selling at the film showing in the autumn.</p> <p>Nevil had got more information from Laura House who expressed interest in running some art workshops in the Barn. After some discussion we agreed that this would involve quite a bit of organisational work for the committee, that we don't have the capacity to take on at the moment. Nevil to feed back to Laura.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>GD</p> <p>NY</p>
9.	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p>Jo will be producing a financial report for the AGM in April.</p>	

10.	<p><b><u>Allotment Forum</u></b></p> <p>The feedback from Haringey had been that the invoicing process had gone more smoothly this year. We had had to agree to send reminder emails to tenants Haringey had identified as 'non-payers'. This had involved a lot of work – Jill estimated 3 – 4 hours at least, and had fed back to Victoria that we did not consider it an appropriate use of our volunteer time.</p> <p>Next year we need to stress in our reminders to tenants to make sure they quote the correct invoice number when making their payments.</p>	
11.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>We discussed the request from Steve Scott-Robson to experiment with making biochar. We agreed that it would be best to wait until early November, when bonfires are permitted. Liz and Nevil plan to have a go. Julie to respond to Steve SR.</p>	JY
12.	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b></p> <p>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2pm.</p>	