	Shepherd's Hill Allotment Association Committee Meeting Draft Minutes February 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2022	
	<b>Present</b> ; Juliet Mann, Jill Russell, Ian Potts, Annie Griffiths, Julie Yogasundram, Stephen Cushnir, Trevor Wyatt, Jo Sheehan, Garry Doyland	
1.	Minutes of last meeting: accuracy	
	Approved.	
2.	Matters arising	
	Japanese knotweed – Julie will chase Haringey again.	JY
	Haringey have not yet appointed a replacement community coordinator, so we will wait to hear from them once someone is in post.	
	Jill circulated some information on defibrillators, from North Bournemouth Allotment Association, which had received a Lottery community fund grant to lease a defibrillator. To make one accessible we would need to have it outside the Barn in a cabinet that requires mains electricity to keep it at a certain temperature. Until we have mains electricity at the Barn it is therefore not viable for us to consider getting one.	
	We will remind tenants about the what3words app that could be useful for emergency services to locate someone. We will also follow up with a tenant who might offer a first aid session.	JM, AG
3.	Bonfire policy	
	We discussed the pros and cons of a more restrictive policy (ban?), given the environmental impact of bonfires.	
	In the first instance Julie will contact Haringey (Annabel Foskett, Nature Conservation Officer at Haringey, and Emi) to find out what if any plans the Council has to change its bonfire policy.	JY
	Annie mentioned about the benefits of Biochar and suggested we looked up more about it online. <u>https://www.rhs.org.uk/soil-</u> <u>composts-mulches/biochar</u>	All
	We also discussed the possibility of having a controlled site burn, where people could bring wood once or twice a year, with the benefit of burning at high temperatures. But we would need to control what was brought to burn (i.e. no painted, treated wood etc.)	

	It was also commented that incinerators are a more efficient way to burn, reaching higher temperatures and producing less smoke.	
4.	Site inspections	
	We hope they will recommence in April.	
5.	Trading Shed	
	Potatoes are arriving on 8 <sup>th</sup> February, and most have already been ordered.	
	Annie will bag everything up before potato Sunday on 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb and we'll give people time slots for collecting.	AG
6.	Maintenance	
	There's a plan to build a wood store for the Barn.	
	There's still a significant problem with water leaking around plots 90, 101, 107 (?) and onto the path and Wood Vale track, but it's still unclear as to what's causing it.	
	Garry and Ian will experiment by buying a few lengths of plastic piping to see if this helps. Will then report back and if successful will lay more.	GD/IP
	Ian will also try to see if Thames Water can help/advise.	IP
	Jo stressed that we urgently need to agree a maintenance plan, prioritising work and expenditure, as we have funds that we need to allocate. Garry and Ian to bring to next meeting.	GD/IP
	We will re-start regular maintenance working parties. Garry and lan to suggest dates.	GD/IP
	<b>Trees</b> Ian reported that the tree surgeon has completed the first phase of the schedule of works we agreed. Ian to get an estimate from Richard for the next phase of work (including the pruning work needed on the bee plot).	IP
	Ian had checked with the tree surgeon and CREOS and they are OK with us going ahead with pruning the branches of the huge oak tree by plot 16. Ian will ask Richard to include this in his estimate.	IP
7.	Communication	
	Barn events	JR

	<ul><li>Potato day</li><li>Trading shed updates</li><li>Willow workshops</li></ul>	
8.	Probationers and lettings	
	There are 5/6 new probationers, some of whom have taken on very difficult plots but are doing a great job. We have two more plots available to let.	
	The waiting list now stands at around 125, still very high but lower than for some time, as a number who have recently been contacted when nearing the top of the list have either not been contactable, or have got a plot elsewhere or moved out of London.	
	As agreed, we opened the waiting list briefly at the beginning of January and the available places (10) were all filled within the hour!	
9.	Future plans	
	At the last Sunday lunch we ran out of soup, so next time we'll plan to have 3 rather than 2 burners (lan to bring his), and 3 soups (Jill, Annie and Jane). Bread: lan, Charlie and Julie. Cake from Juliet's neighbour.	IP/AG/JR/JM
	lan will turn on the water for the day on the 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	IP
	Jill reported that the willow workshops are now full. We have asked for £20 deposit with the balance paid on the day. Accommodating people's preference for which day, and checking/chasing deposits all takes time – we need to bear this in mind when planning future events.	
	We will tell participants to bring their own lunch and tea/coffee so that no one has to organise that. On the Sat and Sunday people can get drinks and snacks from Highgate tennis club if they wish.	JR
	Jill can open and close the Barn on Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March Juliet will do Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> March Garry will do Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> .	JR, JM, GD
	The workshop tutor (Linda) has asked if she can park her van on site for the duration of the 3 days, to avoid ULEZ charges. We need to make clear this is at her own risk.	
	Julie reported that she's got some non-committee members interested in helping with café at the barn, which may mean we can open more than once a month.	
10.	Finance	

	Jo circulated a finance update report, and highlighted the need for us to agree expenditure on maintenance against an agreed list of priorities. Jill had researched buying a second card reader, but it is quite expensive so we will carry on managing with one.	
11.	AOB	
	A tenant had enquired whether they could erect a greenhouse that is larger than the permissible size. We agreed that we should ensure tenants stick to the rules. Julie to respond.	JY
	We will look at ways of improving the rather shabby looking notice board by the Montenotte gate.	JM, AG
12.	Date of next meeting	
	Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> March on Zoom. 6.30pm. Julie to chair.	