

Shepherd's Hill Allotment Association Committee Meeting Minutes Draft minutes 5th January 2026		
	<p>Present; Juliet Mann, Jill Russell, Garry Doyland, Annie Griffiths, Ian Potts, Trevor Wyatt, Julie Yogasundram (chair), Jo Sheehan, Nevil Yildiz, Liz Denver</p> <p>Apologies:.Ian Potts</p>	
1.	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting: accuracy</u></p> <p>None. Minutes were approved.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Matters arising</u></p> <p>Following the last meeting Jill had circulated a sample terms of reference for allotment management committees, and ToR for SHA, approved in 2016. We agreed to consider these alongside the Haringey list of development management duties and responsibilities – Jill to circulate the latest version, and Jill and Julie to look at these various documents and bring something to the next meeting.</p> <p>Jill noted that we still have not had a response from Haringey to our email of 20th Sept 2025 giving our collective response to the JKW issues.</p>	JR and JY
3.	<p><u>Bonfire Ban</u></p> <p>As agreed at the last meeting, we conducted a site-wide poll. This was sent out on 20th November and closed on 11th December. We reported the results to all tenants in an email on 12th December, noting the high response rate - from 64% tenants, and 70% plots. 46% voted yes to keep the ban, and 54% voted no to the ban, with many suggestions for more restrictive and responsible burning practices. All comments were circulated to committee members and also a summary of the main comments/suggestions. We discussed each of these in turn, and voted on allowing bonfires between 1st Nov – end Feb. Seven voted in favour, one against and one abstained.</p> <p>Jill to draft and circulate an email to go out to all tenants, summarising our discussion of tenants' comments/suggestions. Post meeting note: email attached to these minutes. And copy of email sent to Allotment Officer for her information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz to look into stocking incinerators in the trading shed. 	LD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nevil to coordinate discussion of biochar at Barn discussion on 18th January. He has invited someone from Omved and the Meadow Orchard Project along. • Liz will contribute to a discussion on hot-bins at some point. • Liz, Garry and Nevil will develop a strategy for taking forward work on the communal compost area. <p>Re. the suggestion to have a communal chipping day – we will ask Ian to ask the tree surgeon who delivers woodchip if this is something they might do – come along with their chipper for a few hours for people to bring wood for chipping. How much would they charge?</p>	<p>NY</p> <p>LD LD/GD/NY</p> <p>IP</p>
4.	<p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <p>Garry reported that the DoE crew have finished painting the floor in the Barn. The trading shed is also being done. The committee thanked the girls, Garry and Ian.</p> <p>Jill had circulated Alex Fraser’s response to our request for Haringey to contribute towards the cost of repairing the fence damage caused by the fallen tree. Haringey have said they are unable to pay due to lack of resources.</p> <p>Garry and Ian will go ahead and do the work, with help from maintenance working parties and the DoE girls. The committee agreed to expenditure of £1500 (as per the quote and drawing submitted to Haringey).</p> <p>Ian had got a quote for £600/700 from Richard to cut down the big Leylandi tree behind the shed on plot 91. The committee agreed this. Trevor to talk to Ian about removal of the cuttings.</p>	<p>GD/IP</p> <p>IP TW</p>
5.	<p><u>Site inspections/probationers and lettings</u></p> <p>As in previous years, we opened up the waiting list briefly on January 4th to let on the 21 people who wrote in on that day (slightly more than plots let in 2015).</p> <p>Currently there are two probationers, and one plot available to let.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Trading shed</u></p> <p>Potato day is on 8th February 11.00 – 2.00. Will send out a reminder in the newsletter. We will serve coffee and cake in the Barn.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Communication with plot holders</u></p>	

	<p>We will send out a reminder about invoices when we hear from Victoria that they've been sent. And then reminders for tenants to check they've received their invoice, and another reminder about making sure they've been paid.</p> <p>Include letter from Harrington scheme thanking Gary Sycamore for his donation from money raised at the farmer's market. He raised and donated an amazing £7750.00!</p> <p>And details of our donation to the food bank from the Winter Warmer.</p> <p>Dates for the diary (see below).</p> <p>JKW update (on there being no update). Jill will email the plot-holders affected rather than putting in an all-site email.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>JR</p> <p>JR</p>
8.	<p><u>Barn events and Future plans</u></p> <p>Jill mentioned her plan to have her history of SHA booklet available to sell at Potato Day. The plan is to have 200 printed (cost = £475.00 + £90 for ISBN, so £2.80 cost price each but will sell at £5.00), and hopefully also sell some at the Hornsey Historical Society (they've agreed to take some on sale or return), and other local outlets, e.g CREOS, Shepherds Cot Trust, etc.</p> <p>We will discuss centenary plans at the next meeting. Julie to bring update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wed 14th January: Café at the Barn • Sun 18th January: Barn discussion (on Biochar) and lunch • Sun 8th February: Potato day 11 – 2.00 • Wed 11th February: Café at the Barn • Sun 22nd February: Barn discussion and Seed Swap and lunch 	<p>JY</p>
9.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>Jo circulated a financial report up to the end of November.</p> <p>We agreed to send 50% monies raised from the Winter Warmer to the Hornsey Food Bank, £900.00.</p> <p>Julie is compiling an insurance claim from the recent sheds break-in.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>JY</p>
10.	<p><u>Allotment Forum</u></p> <p>The next HAF meeting is on 17th Jan. Juliet will attend.</p>	<p>JM</p>

11.	<u>AOB</u> None.	
12.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Mon 23 rd February 2pm	

Email to all tenants about bonfires, sent 7th Jan 2026

Happy new year and wishing everyone a productive year of growing.

The committee met this week and discussed the results of the bonfire poll.

Thank you to everyone who participated and for the many helpful comments. As reported in a previous email, the results were close, with 102 (54%) tenants against the ban and 86 (46%) in favour of it.

Having looked carefully at the comments and suggestions made, we have tried to arrive at a compromise that we hope will be acceptable to all.

There was wide support for restrictive burning on site and the committee agreed to:

- Restrict bonfires on the site to between **November 1st – end of February**.
- Request that tenants consider carefully whether there is an alternative to having a bonfire and to keep bonfires to a minimum.
- Avoid having bonfires when Sunday Barn events are taking place.
- Wherever possible **use an incinerator** rather than an open bonfire. Incinerators burn at higher temperatures, reducing harmful emissions. The trading shed will look into stocking incinerators for purchase and having a few available to borrow. Consider sharing with neighbours too.
- Remember your tenancy agreement stipulates that if you are asked to extinguish a nuisance bonfire by a neighbour, tenant or otherwise, you **must** do so immediately.
- Always make sure you **only burn dry natural materials**. Further bonfire guidance from Haringey can be read on our website.

Tenants made a number of other helpful suggestions, which we discussed and endorsed as a committee:

- Encourage everyone to compost their green waste on their own plots as much as possible. To support this we will organise Barn discussions on effective composting, dead-hedging, and the benefits of hot-bins.
- Explore the potential benefits of biochar. This will be the focus of a Barn discussion on 18th January.
- Identify ways of improving the communal composting area, and access to it. We will develop a strategy for taking this forward, which will depend in large part on tenants volunteering to help make this work.
- Look into the feasibility of having one or two 'communal chipping' days/year.

Please note:

- BBQs continue to be permitted on site, but again we ask you to consider the environmental impact of burning, and if possible to use eco-friendly alternatives to charcoal and fire-lighters. Also have due regard for any nuisance to your neighbours.

- Firepits are considered in the same way as bonfires and only allowed between November and end of February.
- The wood burning stove in the Barn provides a good source of heat and uses dried, seasoned wood from the site. The stove will be regularly serviced and air quality monitored.
- The committee will review this policy and guidelines in January 2027.

If you have any questions on the above please send them in to info@