

Minutes for AGM of Cross Houses Allotment-holders Group 1/4/23,

11am at the Chapel Community Centre

Present: Denise Kirk, Mary Lewis, Ian James, Len Tunnell, Will Tunnell, Kevin Meredith, Maggie Webster, Pryce Brayne, Robert Pugh, Mick Lee, Caroline Savage, Cameron Moffett **Apologies:** Jim Healey, Tina Aldridge, Daniel Corfield, Mark Eaton

1. Last two sets minutes accepted. Matters arising from last minutes: Jim has removed sandbags by main gate.
2. The committee was re-elected: Mick Lee as Chair, Ian James as Treasurer, Cameron Moffett as Secretary
3. IJ gave financial report: the bank balance was about the same as at the end of last year: £565. As ever, out main expense is the water bill. RP reminded the meeting where the stopcock is located – immediately right of the pedestrian gate, sunk below ground level, after his experience of going to site and meeting a leaking standpipe due to a failed washer. Payment of rents.
4. Tenancies: CM reported recent changes: Sandra Hoof on Plot 5a has moved. Len Tunnell has taken on Plot 22, Caroline Savage has extended her plot slightly, Maggie and Keith Webster have taken on Plot 6, Tina Aldridge has taken on Plot 26, Mark Eaton has taken on Plot 2 – CM to ask whether he would like a bit more ground leaving us the space immediately adjacent to the shelter for a communal herb garden (agreed after the meeting). CM said she was uncertain of Andrew Middleton and whether he had recovered and was now using Plot 13 again. IJ said Plot 19, adjacent to his, was very untended.
5. The wall on the Atcham road. CM said she believed that the Parish Council had not found anyone to tender for the work yet. IJ said that Shawn, the PC's contractor, had been and dug an inspection hole by the wall to look at the footings.
6. A great deal of essential work had been done by plot-holders recently: IJ and a friend had replaced the broken lock on the communal shed, and Ian replaced wheelbarrow tyre (12 hours), Len and Will Tunnell have pruned apple trees (20 hours), Mick Lee pruned hedges (5 hours), CM strimmed and a bit of hedge pruning (8 hours).
7. Agreement to the usual Bonfire Night, date TBC nearer the time. People seemed too busy in the summer to fit in another get-together then.
8. AOB: CM will purchase some weed spray. CM to contact Ben's carers to try and arrange a teaching session on site. A lady who lives locally comes to the allotments regularly, usually take pick up windfall apples, which is ok, but sometimes she picks things from people's plots. Discussion of how best to deal with this: we want people to feel welcome to visit and sit on a bench in the sun, but not to help themselves to produce. A sign saying 'no picking' suggested. Having an official Apple Day when people can come and help themselves to the cooking apples would be a good move.
9. Date next meeting: sometime in September or October

Cameron Moffett, Group Secretary, 11/4/23