



## BURNSIDE & VINERY ROAD allotments

### **AGM 2016, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May , St. Thomas' Hall. Minutes of Meeting.**

1. Attended – see attached list.
2. Apologies – see attached list.
3. Meeting chair – Mark Talman (Society Chair)
4. **Introduction** – Mark Talman
5. **BURNSIDE SITE REPORT**
  - a. Andy Kurdynowski (Site Manager) – a successful volunteering day was held in 2015 which included removal of derelict sheds, general tidying up.
  - b. A “burn bin site” was created and subsequently the burn bin has been well used. A similar bin has been created for Vinery which will be delivered there.
  - c. A lot of asbestos sheeting has been removed from the site. The aim over the next year is to remove the small amount that remains.
  - d. Future activities will include a volunteering day, plant swaps as well as the continued store openings.
  - e. Matthew Whitelegg (Site Manager) – there are 5 half plots available and 1 person on the waiting list.
6. **VINERY SITE REPORT**
  - a. Glynn Gorick (Site Manager) – The site is virtually full with one small area with dilapidated shed to be addressed.
  - b. The site has full, half and quarter plots. First time gardeners are given quarter plots and depending on their success and availability are offered additional space as it becomes available.
  - c. The history of the site was briefly outlined and the need to keep it in full use stressed to ensure it is not considered for housing.
  - d. There are 2 people on the waiting list.
  - e. The site toilet was constructed in 2015. Use of this does not appear to be great. (Post Meeting – Glynn reports that after making enquires at the weekend it was found that the toilet is well used and a good addition to the site)
  - f. The main track on the site is in poor condition and requires repair.
  - g. A composting area has been created together with a firewood collection area. The Burn Bin will be put here.
  - h. An area for the collection of metal and plastic waste has also been created. This will be collected for recycling.
  - i. Many of the tenants have organised Amy compost deliveries.
  - j. The plot rented by TJ Kids (after school club) is well used. A gate between Vinery and St. Philip's has been formed to make the access safer for the children.

- k. One tenant is monitoring the hedgehogs on the site.
- l. A general discussion about wild life on the two sites took place.

## **7. CONSTITUTION**

- a. Mark Talman - The Society adopted a new constitution last October.
- b. MT asked if anyone proposed any further changes. None were put forward.
- c. MT explained that the constitution would be reviewed annually and any alterations considered at the AGM and voted on.
- d. It was noted that the constitution was not yet on the website. This should be rectified as soon as possible.
- e. It was proposed to retain the constitution as it stood. This was accepted by a majority and there were no objections.

## **8. ACCOUNTS**

- a. Andy Livesey (Treasurer and Secretary) presented last year's accounts – see attached record.
- b. AL noted that the City Council rent had increased for both sites. Water charges and other utilities have increased. This has meant that a fee restructure has been considered –see later in the minutes.
- c. Questions from the floor – The cost of new toilet was raised. It was explained that this had been kept to a minimum as it was erected by several Vinery tenants. The other significant costs were the new water troughs on both sites.
- d. Mark Talman – explained that the Society would like the accounts to be separately audited by a member of the Society. Mari Mareno agreed to do this.

## **9. FUTURE EVENTS /ACTIVITIES**

- a. Volunteering Day – Burnside Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016
- b. Plant Swaps - Burnside 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> May and 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> May 2016
- c. BBQ – will be at Vinery in August 2016 , day to be confirmed.
- d. Poly Tunnel at Burnside – it is proposed to put a large commercial type poly tunnel on one of the plots. The frame has been given to the society and the cover will need to be bought.
- e. Shop – it is proposed to try new products from LBS Horticulture. Items will be at trade prices. Their products can be viewed on their website.
- f. A Waste Week is to be considered for both sites, details to be agreed by the committee.

## **10. NEW FEE STRUCTURE**

- a. Andy Kurdynowski – explained that the proposal was to rationalise the fees and their collection.
- b. The greater use of emails and the web for seed orders etc. is to be brought in.
- c. See attached for the proposal.
- d. Question from the floor – Will the proposal address the increase in the Council's site rent? Answer – yes.
- e. The general feeling from floor was that the rent was reasonable.
- f. The proposal was accepted by a clear majority vote.
- g. In addition Mark Talman proposed a rolling tenancy. This was generally thought to be a good idea. To be brought in from this October.
- h. Electronic payment to be brought in.

## **11. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE**

- a. The Society's Chair(Mark Talman) and the Secretary/Treasurer (Andy Livesey) to remain for the next year.
- b. The remaining members of the committee stood down but were put up for re-election:

- Glynn Gorick (Vinery)
  - Penny Henderson (Burnside)
  - Andy Kurdynowski (Burnside)
  - John McGill (Burnside)
  - Mary Geddes (Burnside)
  - Matthew Whitelegg (Burnside)
- c. Three tenants were proposed:
- Neena (Vinery)
  - Barry South (Vinery)
  - Joan Bullock-Anderson (Burnside)
- d. All the above were voted on to the committee.

## **12. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

- a. Sarah EM – asked if there was anyone experienced in making funding claims, lottery etc? It was stated that no one on the committee had experience of this and that it would be good to find someone who has.
- b. Deborah Meyler – asked about the disposal of the asbestos sheeting on the dilapidated shed on the plot she has recently taken on. Burnside managers to look at this and help with the disposal.
- c. There was a general discussion about the encouraging of wildlife and the use of chemicals, particularly slug pellets. The harmful effect of these products was clearly a concern for many present. It was suggested that the society should consider measures to encourage more sustainable and wildlife friendly management of the sites. Measures such as appropriate products in the store and encouraging organic practices should be considered.
- d. It was proposed that a survey of both sites to find out what the current use of chemicals is and organic practices take place. Peter Harris (Vinery) agreed to undertake this. He will liaise with the committee regarding this.

# BURNSIDE + VINEY ALLOTMENTS

AUM - 2016.

## ATTENDANTS:

Fiona Stern  
Kate Whitelegg  
Anke Liebert  
Glenda Harrison  
~~PETER HARRISON~~  
Javier Jimenez  
Marisela Moreno  
Veronica Latham.  
NEENA NERKAR  
Ron Muwt  
Anne Pammante  
Chris Peake.  
Sarah ELLIS-MILLER.  
Maggie John.  
Joan Bullock-Anderson  
John m'Gill  
Penny Henderson.  
Bam Smith  
K. Marshall  
Glynn GORUCK  
ANNA TAMAN.  
DEBORAH MEYLER  
MATTHEW WHITELEG  
ANNA LIVESLEY  
ANDY KURDYNOWSKI

19/05/2016

## Rent and Society Membership rationalisation option

Currently the charges are

Full plot	£17
Half plot	£9 (do we charge 2x£9 for two half plots?)
Quarter plot	£? (Vinery site only)
Society membership	£6
Associate member	£2

With the current number of plots and tenants this supplies, or could supply, a yearly income as follows.

### As of now

179 membership fees across both sites	£1074
6 associate members	£12
Rent Burnside 99 Vinery 50	£2653
NOTE this figure is a simplified calculation at £17 for all plots with 50p per half plot added.	

TOTAL £3679

### I suggest for 2016 -2017

Full plot	£20
Half plot	£10
Quarter plot	£5
Society membership	£10 – reduced to £5 if the member agrees to <u>fully</u> use only email contact, keeping that address up to date and active.
Associate member	£10 – reduced to £5 if the member agrees to <u>fully</u> use only email contact, keeping that address up to date and active.

NOTE – tenants whose emails bounce, may not be allowed to use the reduced email option the following year.

179 tenants across both sites total	£995	Assuming 20 will not go email.
6 associate members	£35	Assuming 1 will not go email.
Rent <u>no simplification needed</u>		
Burnside 99 Vinery 50	£2980	

TOTAL £4010

### Rationale:-

- It's an overall increase of only £271, it's about 7.5% overall so not excessive.
- There has been no increase for at least 12 years, (certainly not since I've had a plot).
- Single (email use) plot user will go from £23 to £25
- Single Half (email use) plot user will remain at £15. So many people will so no actual change.
- Multiple plot holders will see the largest increase – I think that's a good thing. We get less from their plot in terms of fees, and an increase may help those with too many plots reduce earlier rather than give up.
- The figures are easier to calculate for accounting and tenancy agreements, to reduce time spent.
- There is now a yearly increase in the Council rent and has been an increased in NSALG fees (now £2.75 each).
- Non email tenants pay fairly for the extra time, effort and cost in using Royal mail. Some additional current low use email tenants may prefer not to use email, we could happily give them that option and use Royal mail for them if they are paying extra for it, and others are not subsidising same. It would only be £4 per year more for them than it is now. Postal rates have just increased to 54p second class. Envelopes, paper, printing and time to do it, plus physically posting the letters is all costly. ALSO could we shift to electronic tenancy agreements and payments for email users?