

Burnside and Vinery Road Allotment Society

Minutes of AGM held on 24/7/18

At St Martin's Church Hall, Suez Road CB1 3QD

From 7.30-10.00

Attendees:

Mark Talman	Jason Daff
Matthew Whitelegg	Martha Davies
Penny Henderson	Barry South
Andy Kurdynowski	Iain Bailey
John McGill	Peter Harrison
Chris and Jane Evans (representing Alice Missenden)	Heather Styles
Hamish Symington	Margaret Collins
Stella Silvester	Katrina Hopkins
Phil Bales	
Michael Brown	
Veronica Latham	
Rachel Van Marle	
Kate Whitelegg	
Marisela Moreno	
Sasha Garrett	
Guiseppe Cordaro	
Vincent Barker	

N=25.

Apologies: Maxim Scheremetjew, Joan Bullock-Anderson, Glynn Gorick, Andy Livesey, Keith Jordan.

Minutes of AGM held on 25th April 2017 at St Thomas' Hall were approved unanimously.

Matters Arising:

1. Asbestos on Burnside is stored and ready for disposal when the Council reviews their policy for disposal.
2. The Vinery track needs patching up. A track fund has been started.
3. There was no Chemicals survey at Vinery.
4. Electronic payments for tenant fees will be available from September.
5. The allotment society history page is not yet up on the website.

Site reports:

Burnside:

1. The composting toilet with urinal and solar heated running water in the basin has been built. (Pictures were available at the AGM). The 4 volunteers who are the toilet team do weekly checks and cleaning, and Andy Kurdynowski manages waste disposal.
2. The burn-bin works to burn waste material. Adaptations have provided an oven in the base for cooking roast chicken, potatoes, camembert and pizza. The site managers manage every firing. Chris Peake cuts the grass in the area around the Burn Bin.
3. The polytunnel parts are on site and black plastic is down to clear the ground. A major volunteering effort will be needed to set it up.
4. The orchard of 14 heritage local fruit trees is thriving. Grass seeding will be done in the autumn. A picnic table has been put there. Alan Spiers cuts the 'grass and weeds' regularly.
5. There have been a number of volunteering days, which have greatly improved the site.
6. 30 tons of kerbside compost was delivered, to those ploholders who paid for it, by means of a teleporter and two days of very hard work, at no cost to the society. A repeat may occur in the autumn.
7. The store has taken £1,700 this year. The last day it is open is 28/7/18. A new system for keeping close account of purchases has been set up.

Vinery:

1. There is currently no site manager. Glynn Gorick, who has stood down, was thanked for his valuable service. A productive meeting was held to encourage more tenants to join the committee and help to organise necessary tasks. The site is virtually full.
2. There may be enough in the track fund to repair the track next year.
3. Glynn Gorick, the retiring site manager, sent the attached details with apologies for absence. (See end of minutes.)

Waiting lists:

24 people are on the Burnside waiting list and, with some overlap for the 2 sites, 12 at Vinery. We get 1 or 2 applicants every week.

Website (Report from Joan Bullock-Anderson):

The website may not be of interest to everyone and its main function still appears to be a first port of call for prospective tenants, which works very well. BUT: the site averages 350 unique visitors per month; from time to time it gets complimentary comments from far and wide; and if you google 'Cambridge Allotments' it invariably appears on the first search page. So it seems to be doing well and it would be nice to keep it fresh and organic

- The Members' Page is relatively new and should be helpful for anyone who doesn't have time to check the whole website regularly. It gives pointers to new content and essential info on dates, news and events;
- The online Noticeboard is the place to advertise your needs and wants, offers, and items for sale – anything from help and equipment to plants and produce. The Noticeboard is linked from the Members' Page and then there's an easy link to a form to fill in and send;
- Content is still added regularly. This week alone, a new recipe, a new article and a Summer Quiz (especially for those who were kicking themselves for not doing the Xmas Quiz!) have been added to the Weeder's Digest pages;
- New content is always gratefully received: the Webmaster's address is on the Members' page. Just email anything and everything of interest or concern;

Proposal: Should we contact tenants with a regular monthly email to direct them to the website? Approved.

Treasurer's report:

Andy Livesey has stepped down as Treasurer after 8 years' service, for which he was thanked. Matthew Whitelegg is now the Society Treasurer.

The profit and loss account figures to the 30th September 2017 were presented and approved. It was noted that this year we have a loss of £636 in contrast with a profit the previous year of £445, but we have approx. £1000 of stock in store. The new bank account will enable tenants to pay their rents by BACs this year.

**Approved by Hamish Symington

NB Volunteers on Vinery have offered to take a monthly meter reading of water usage there.

Future events planned for Burnside:

1. BBQ 15th September (also a BBQ at Vinery on 9th September).
2. Polytunnel plans: Mark Talman has contacted the Council to check if planning permission is necessary. We hope to have the polytunnel up in the next year.

3. The Council didn't cut the Burnside hedge last year, which is now very overgrown. Grass cutting of the track has been sustained.
4. On one empty plot on Burnside we may plan a series of up to 10 raised beds to be tenanted individually by young families or by older people for whom a plot is too much (Vinery manages the issue by offering quarter plots). External funding would be necessary to set it up.
5. Rachel van Marle is planning a regular get-together for children on the site. Sunday 23rd September has been proposed for the first meeting.
6. The Council contacted us about 18 months ago with an enquiry about widening Snakey Path by the Cherry Hinton Brook. We were supportive of this plan, and we await developments.
7. The Birdwood Residents Association approached us through one of our tenants who lives there, to see if they could visit the site. Andy Kurdynowski is liaising to organize a date for a tour.
8. The next volunteering day will be announced. It was going to be 28th July but the weather is too hot. 5-6 plots on Burnside are very overgrown, and will need clearing before letting.

Appreciations for voluntary work:

To Alan Spears and Chris Peake for cutting the grass on the orchard and the picnic area.

To Paul Jones, Kari Knight, Penny Henderson and Ingrid Jackson for work as the toilet team.

To Store keepers Michael Brown, Matthew Whitelegg, Andy Kurdynowski, Penny Henderson, Joan Bullock-Anderson, Anne Pammenter, and Maxim Scheremetjew.

To the Committee of 2017-18.

Committee elections:

All the Committee stood down (barring the Chair) and said they were willing to stand for re-election.

The following tenants were approved to be the 2018-19 Committee, en masse:

Burnside Members: Joan Bullock-Anderson (Web Manager), John McGill, Maxim Scheremetjew, Penny Henderson, Andy Kurdynowski (Site Manager), Matthew Whitelegg (Secretary, Treasurer);

Vinery Members: Barry South (Vice Chair). New Vinery committee members welcomed were: Katrina Hopkins, Iain Bailey*, Jason Daff and Ed Rayne.

Mark Talman (Chair), did not stand. A query from the floor questioned this but he was referred to the current constitution.

**(IB no longer on the committee as he is not a tenant)*

The date for the 2019 AGM will be announced nearer the time.

Vinery Site Report from Glynn for the 2018 AGM

Apologies for my absence.

The Vinery site continues to be well used. This week the waiting list was checked and new tenants introduced. The site now has only 2 quarter plots available for rent with no one on the waiting list for Vinery.

This year has seen 10 tenants leave and 12 new tenants arrive. During the previous year the turnover was 15 leaving and 12 arriving.

On a site with over 70 tenants the standard on average is good. 6 plots are becoming overgrown and need some action.

Members organised 3 deliveries of Amey Cespa compost. We make our own compost on a shared plot trying to promote composting rather than burning of organic material.

We had an underground water pipe leaking for 4 days last month. On notifying the committee for advice Andy repaired the leak the following day and saved the society a lot of cash and more water loss. This drought is stressing our gardens. I turned on the Vinery water supply on April 1st and the metre reading was 6286. July 21st reading was 6588. So Vinery used 302 cubic metres of water to date in 2018. The current cost of water and records of our usage can be obtained from Cambridge Water Company on Cambridge 706050.

There is a track fund of £262 collected at Vinery from shed sales and donations and this is available for track repair materials.

The City Council Tree Team cut and chipped 6 decaying and dangerous trees from the Vinery site free of charge.

Happy gardening