

**Burnside and Vinery Road Allotment Society**

**Minutes of AGM held on 10/04/19**

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

**From 19:30 – 22:00**

**Attendees:** Michael Brown, Joan Bullock-Anderson, Ken Cotterell, Sarah Ellis-Miller, Tom Hallmark, Penny Henderson, Pauline Knighton, Andy Kurdynowski, John McGill, Chris Peake, Maxim Scheremetjew, Rajni Shah, Stella Silvester, Mark Talman, Janet Madeline Umpleby, Rachel van Marle, Matthew Whitelegg, Kate Whitelegg.

**Agenda:** see attached

**Welcome:** from the chair (Mark Talman)

**Site Reports:** to follow – both sites are full with a waiting list.

Vinery Road Site Manager Report read by the Chair on behalf of Jason Daff.

Burnside Site Report given by Andy Kurdynowski

**Website Report:** to follow – Given by Joan Bullock-Anderson.

Photographs, recipes etc. would be very welcome.

Thanks were given by the chair to Joan & Jamie for their work on the website.

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**Apologies for Absence:** Ingrid Jackson, Hamish Symington, Jason Daff, Suzy Ashworth, Cordelia Myers.

**Minutes of AGM** held on 24/07/18 at St Martin's Church Hall were approved unanimously.

Matters Arising:

1. Asbestos has been removed from Burnside.
2. The Track fund for Vinery Road is ongoing.
3. Electronic payments are now in place and were widely used to renew membership by tenants.
4. The history page on the website is now available.

**Financial Report:** given by Matthew Whitelegg

1. The rent payable to the City Council was lower than usual as the Society was not billed for the second half of the year. This payment will appear in the current year's accounts.

2. High cost items included repairing the ground leak at Vinery and building the toilet at Burnside.
3. Taking into account the rent that was due to the City Council the Society broke even.
4. The new bank account is working well so the Society will close the old building society account transferring all funds to the new account.

The annual accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were presented and approved unanimously by a show of hands.

**Constitution Change:** Proposal from the committee that section 5b is amended.

This is to prevent confusion over voting and membership rights. The current constitution allows for joint tenants but with only one of the tenants having any rights. The amendment would change the constitution so that only sole tenancies can be issued.

*5b to read: 5b. To all persons over the age of 18, who have made an application for an allotment, joining either or both waiting lists when the sites are fully let, have been approved by the site management and granted a tenancy, tenancies will be in individual names.*

Change to the constitution unanimously agreed by the meeting through a show of hands.

Tenants were reminded that if they have friends or family who help them on their plot, they should ensure that the person is on the waiting list if they are to have any prospect of taking over the plot at a future date.

**Correspondence:** The Society was notified by the City Council that they plan to widen Snakey Path. This would result in the Society losing a width of land next to the existing path. There has been no recent contact from the Council about progressing this.

### **Election of Committee:**

All the committee stood down. 11 names have been proposed for the committee. 10 tenants and 1 associate member (no voting rights):

Suzy Ashworth (associate member) – seconded by Andy Kurdynowski

Joan Bullock-Anderson – seconded by Andy Kurdynowski

Alexandra Considine Tong – seconded by Sarah Ellis-Miller

Jason Daff – seconded by Andy Kurdynowski

Penny Henderson – seconded by John McGill

Andy Kurdynowski – seconded by Ken Cotterell

John McGill – seconded by Michael Brown

Max Scheremetjew – seconded by Penny Henderson

Barry South – seconded by John McGill

Mark Talman – seconded by Andy Kurdynowski

Matthew Whitelegg – seconded by Penny Henderson

The chair checked with the floor if there were any objections to the committee make up. There were none.

**Date of Next AGM:** April 2020. Specific date to be decided. All tenants will be notified in the usual way.

**Any Other Business:**

1. Temporary Contact Document presented by Andy Kurdynowski on behalf of the committee. In circumstances where a tenant is unwell or for some other reason unable to manage their plot a second party is able to look after their plot until the tenant is able to return to manage the plot. This is only possible for up to 12 months, after which the tenant must take back the plot or it will be made available to the waiting list. The tenant will sign a temporary contact document showing who will be looking after the plot and whether that person or the tenant is the contact person during that time.
2. Given the number of people on the waiting list and the difficulty for some new tenants to manage a half plot, should quarter plots be offered to new tenants? Question from Chris Peake

Some concerns raised by the committee about creating smaller plots at Burnside following the experience of doing this at Vinery.

However, it was agreed that the committee does need to look at this and other options given a) the number on the waiting list and b) the need to encourage new tenants so that they do not give up.

Other options suggested: a coming in plot for new tenants, a communal plot for new tenants.

3. Again given the waiting list, how is current usage of plots being checked? Question from John McGill.

The site managers at Burnside carry out an annual review to check use of plots. This takes place in May. They may suggest a tenant reduces the number of plots they have and discuss usage, and they have very occasionally evicted tenants. It was noted that for every 10 people the site managers contact on the waiting list about one third do not respond.

4. Ken Cotterell reported to the AGM that someone had been caught stealing from his plot. Another tenant confronted the individual and took a photograph of him. Ken wondered if the photograph could be put up.

It was felt that this was not an option. However the surveillance signs and camera have been repaired to help as a deterrent at the Burnside Ancaster Way entrance. Tenants were asked to keep an eye open for people they do not recognise on site; however personal safety should be anyone's priority.

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### **View from the Chair:**

Mark Talman is standing down as chair. He gave a brief overview of the changes that he has seen over the last few years. The involvement of more people, particularly at Burnside, has been very positive. A significant number of improvements at both sites and in the management have made things easier and better for all tenants.

The new committee will vote for the new chair at their next meeting.

A vote of thanks to the chair and to all the committee for their hard work was given by the floor.

### **Future Events:**

1. The store at Burnside reopens for the summer on 28<sup>th</sup> April. On 28<sup>th</sup> April it will be open all day. A team of volunteers will run the store throughout the summer.
2. Work will be carried out on the Burnside Ancaster Gate entrance to create a rainwater runaway.
3. Landscaping around the toilet area at Burnside will continue.
4. Various old sheds need to be cleared.
5. A barricade will be built to contain the wood chippings at Burnside.
6. There will be more burn bin days.
7. There will be more children's gatherings.
8. The polytunnel at Burnside - Andy Kurdynowski is getting a small team together to begin work on this project.
9. Mark Talman is organising a delivery of compost. Tenants will be notified of this, so please keep an eye out for more detail.

### **Questions from the Floor:**

There were no questions. The meeting ended with refreshments and chat.