

## Whitehill Allotment Society 2021 AGM Minutes

Cambridge United Supporters Club Hall  
September 13th 7.30pm

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS :

- Online Ballot Results 2020 (instead of 2020 AGM minutes)
- Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary

### Members In Attendance:

Begona Dobon Berengueur, June Hyde, Diane & Jim Walsh, Nathalie Lofts, Lona McNair, Victor Stirling, Audrey Osbourne (Abbey People), Elizabeth Robinson, *Illegible name* Plot 156, Peter Merry, Chris Moley, Ruth Wood, Steve Gurner, Maria Slater, Jane Kiddle, Jon Bridges, Christoph Weber, Lorne Larson, Delphine Buffet, Carlo Limarino, Anna Reva, Alex Smaridge, Christopher Mortin, Edward Njenje, Kirsten Lavers, Lucy King, James Freeman, Nigel Dominic.

Guest Chair : Rev Stuart Wood

Apologies : Rue Preston, Daniella Fox.

Paper Ballots: 6

Email submissions : 2

#### 1. Nomination and approval of AGM Chair and AGM Minute-taker

Nominated: Alex S

Second: Kirsten L

Passed Unanimously

AGM Minute-Taker (Alex Smaridge)

Nominated: Stuart

Second: Kirsten

Passed Unanimously

#### 2. Approval of Online Ballot 2020 (held in lieu of AGM in 2020)

Chair proposed that those present agree that the online ballot took place in Sept 2020.

Second : Alex Smaridge

Passed Unanimously

#### 3. Treasurer's Report

Rue Preston sent apologies. AGM Secretary read out Treasurer's Report. Well received and no questions from the membership.

All agreed a vote of thanks to Rue for his long service to the society over the last 45 years. **AC-TION AGM Secretary to pass along sincere thanks from all.**

#### 4. Peverel Site Secretary's Update - Anna Reva

Anna gave a report on the plot status and general upkeep of the Peverel site. Highlights from the year include, installation of 60m of fencing, Marshall airport collaboration regarding tree line, Parking lines and signage to support with previous parking issues now resolved. No theft or damage in past year.

Site is in good state

No Questions.

**5. Election of Chair : Nomination James Freeman. 29 Votes**

Elected

**6. Election of Treasurer : Nomination Kelly Anstee. 30 Votes**

Elected

**7. Election of Committee Members**

Nominations : Jon Bridges (Elected 27 Votes) Ruth Dunn (Elected 27 Votes), Diana Walsh (Elected 29 Votes) Danielle Fox (Elected 30 Votes) , Natalie Lofts (Elected 31 Votes), Ryan King (Elected 31 Votes), Kirsten Lavers (Elected 21 Votes 1 against) , Anna Reva (Elected 28 Votes 1 against ) Begona Dobon Berenguer (Elected 28 Votes 1 against), Edward Njenje,(Elected 27 votes 1 against) June Hyde.(Elected 30 votes 1 against)

**TEN MINUTE COMFORT BREAK**

**Any Other Business:**

**1. Committee Policy on abusive behaviour.**

AGM Secretary reported there currently isn't one. Suggestions from the floor were to refer to the NAS policy and contact other local allotment societies regarding their policy on this. **ACTION: New Committee No date Set.**

**2. Committee Policy on complaints:**

AGM Secretary reported there is no Complaints procedure currently and recommended that the new committee should develop one. Currently there is a channel to follow should an unresolvable complaint arise whereby the Cambridge City Council may (for a fee) hear complaints and decide in some cases. **ACTION: New Committee No date set.**

**3. Process of recognition of long-standing members.**

The AGM Secretary reported that interim committee were not aware of such a process. A member reported that there is a precedent of offering life membership for longstanding contributions. K.Lavers proposed to grant Rue Preston Life Membership, Seconded Diane Walsh. Passed Unanimously. Member reported that previously gifts have been given on retirement and suggested that Committee consider using Society funds to purchase a suitable gift for Rue Preston. **ACTION: New Committee no date set.**

**4. Open Cambridge Event 18 September**

Ruth Wood (Cyrenians Community Garden Co-Ordinator) reported that they are taking part in Cambridge University Open Cambridge Festival on Saturday 18th 10am - 3pm

Request for the main gate to be left open with volunteers in attendance to orient visitors.

All members are also welcome to visit. There will be refreshments. It is a ticketed event so names of visitors will be on record. Membership to be informed before Saturday **ACTION: AGM Secretary**

## 5. Locking of the pedestrian side gate.

There was significant member discussion over security of property and personal safety. Concerns raised that Community groups find the return trips to the gate time-consuming having to unlock/lock gate after each participant. Exterior key box in inappropriate location, fiddly to use, code has not been shared with Cyrenian Community Garden members.

Proposal to keep the gate unlocked during the day Ruth Wood, Seconded Kirsten Lavers : FOR: 8 (includes 1 paper ballot vote) AGAINST: 19. MOTION NOT PASSED

Proposal to change the pedestrian gate lock to a combination padlock instead of a key lock with a review of its success by the committee and an annual or bi-annual review of code.

Proposed: Kirsten Lavers Seconded Lorne Larson FOR: 17. AGAINST : 2 (Abstentions 7) MOTION PASSED

**ACTION: New Committee no date set**

## 5. Bonfire Rules the following resolution to the bonfire rules has been proposed:

*(a) You may light a bonfire but only to burn materials from your allotment. The only materials you should put on a bonfire are diseased plants and dried-out **organic material** that will burn without excessive smoke or hazardous residue. **You must never burn plastics.***

*(b) You must always be present while a bonfire is alight. You must extinguish the bonfire before you leave the allotment.*

*(c) Bonfires should not cause an obvious nuisance to external residents nearby. More specifically, it would be inadvisable to have bonfires on days where Cambridge United home games are in progress.*

AGM Secretary read aloud an email from a member about concern of plastic and monitoring of fires and about making a nuisance for local neighbours.

Proposer is seeking to return to the rule agreed at the last in person AGM. Concern about the way the bonfire rule was changed during lockdown without in-person vote. Proposer believes the bonfire rules should be decided by the AGM.

### Suggestions arising from discussion:

The committee might share guidance on bonfires, how to, do's and don'ts of a safe bonfire. There were offers of help for this guidance from other members.

The traditional bonfire night in the past has been well enjoyed.

There is still a large amount of rotten wood to remove from the site despite the best efforts of skips and now the recycling, green waste and black council bins - could be organized into in a big communal fire.

Include a schedule of the United Games in the shop so not to disturb football games.

Small contained bonfires are a valuable therapeutic part of a community group session.

Proposed: Lorne Larson Seconded: Ruth Wood FOR: 19 (includes one paper ballot vote) AGAINST : 2 email votes Abstentions: 8.

MOTION PASSED

**ACTION: New Committee no date set**

## Any Other Business Proposed from the Floor

1. Deer damage: proposal to notify the committee about sightings of deer. **ACTION Committee to consider no date set**

2. Committee to start a logbook to record unsafe fires as well as thefts, incidents of abusive behaviour, sightings of deer etc so that the outcome of rule changes can be evaluated at future AGMs **ACTION Committee to consider no date set**

3. Question: What is the process of making and changing rules ? Who decides ? How is the membership involved ? – **ACTION: New Committee**

Thanks to Stuart Wood giving his time this evening to Chair.

The Meeting concluded at 9.30pm