

MEETING MINUTES

Organisation:	The Gresty Street Community Allotments Association			
Date of Meeting:	31/07/2022	Start time:	11.00 am	
Location:	Penkhull Village Hall	End time:	12.21 pm	
Chair:	N Barrett	Minute taker:	N cotton	
1 MEETING OBJECTIVES GENERAL MEETING				
1.1	APOLOGIES			
1.2	CONFIRMATION OF THE ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2022			
1.3	CHAIRS REPORT			
1.4	FINANCIAL REPORT			
1.5	PLOT RENTAL COSTS FOR 2023			
1.6	FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF GRESTDY STREET COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT			
	ASSOCIATION OPTIONS UNDER DISCUSSION WILL INCLUDE:			
	1. CONTINUATION AS A SELF-MANAGED SITE			
	2. JOINT MANAGEMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY COUNCIL ALLOTMENT			
	TEAM			
	3. RETURN TO FULL CITY COUNCIL CONTROL ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED			
1.7	COMMUNICATIONS			
1.8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS			
2 ATTENDANCE				
2.1	PRESENT		2.2	APOLOGIES
	N.Barrett (NB)			M.Eyre (ME)
	N.Cotton (NC)			D.Marshall (DM)
	M.Cotton (MC)			H.Marshall (HM)
	P. Woodward (PW)			C.Dixson (CD)
	S.Hill (SH)			H.Dixson (HD)
	N.Barrett (NB)			
	H.Walley (HW)			
	S.Lovert (SL)			
	A. Dobraszczyc (AD)			
	R.Hudson (RD)			
	Theresa Hudson (TH)			
	G.Caisley (G.C)			
	D.Barnett (D.B)			

AGENDA, DECISIONS, ISSUES

TOPIC/ DISCUSSION NOTES

1.1 APOLOGIES

Apologise were read out please see 2.2

1.2 CONFIRMATION OF THE ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2022

NB, asked if the members were happy with the current elected members of the committee to bring the site forward, and proposed the committee stay in place, this was seconded by SL, and agreed by a majority vote.

He also confirmed the appointment of David Barnett as president of the GSCAA agreed and voted in by the committee.

No Actions required

1.3 CHAIRS REPORT

NB, produced a report for everyone to take a copy of this has also been emailed out to everyone, please see the detail in appendix 5.1

No action required

NB suggested that there was no change to the objectives set out below and read Appendix 5.1 out the plot holders, NB asked if the report was acceptable the majority present agreed.

SH, suggested that the waiting list that the council had needed to be questioned to how many people and how we get the people onto the plot.

There was a further discussion on the fact that the plots needed to be filled and that people would need help when taking them on, as well as a number of plots that needed to be tendered better than already had members on.

NC, asked all members to put their ideas and recommendations in writing to the generic email address so that the committee could discuss and vote on moving issues forward.

1.1 FINANCIAL REPORT

SH, suggested that the report was simple due to the fact that there was not a lot of activity over covid, please see the report in 5.2.

SH, also updated the signatories on the accounts had been updated and that the process for the closure of the savers account closer was in progress.

NC, also updated that the GSCAA now has a PayPal account which would help support easier payment methods for members

1.4 PLOT RENTAL COSTS FOR 2023

NB reconfirmed at the AGM that the members in the majority did agree to amend next year's rent to £65

1.5 FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF GSCAA OPTIONS UNDER DISCUSSION WILL INCLUDE:

NB stated that if we wanted to stay self-managed we would have to apply to stay self-managed with the council, but currently was waiting on further information from the council as to what the next steps were.

As per the majority vote at the AGM that members wanted to stay self-managed this would be the position of the new committee and they would carry this forward unless a quorum of 20 votes were passed to reconsider the decision, or if the council took it out of the committee's hands.

1.6 COMMUNICATIONS

NB, clarified that all communication must come through the generic email and our main communication tool as a committee going forward would be the website.

1.7 AOB

SL, expressed it was important to get the site secure and the fencing finished, this was agreed by everyone, but the committee members stated that it must be done properly and there were issues in the current complaints that needed to be resolved first.

Other issues such as the locking of gates were brought to attention and NB asked NC to communicate out that it was important to ensure everyone was locking the gate.

The members discussed good ideas to control this and were asked to send it in writing to the generic inbox where the committee could then include this in the plans going forward.

3 APPENDIX

3.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Gresty Street Community Allotment Association

Chairman's Report General Meeting July 2022

This report is the first since the AGM in January 2020.

I would like to recognise the contribution made by all of us to continuing the progress on site and the wellbeing of all during the past long months with many sad losses.

I would also like to take time to thank all who have been on the committee, have supported the committee and who have made sure we are about to go forward in a very challenging time.

Key areas of future activity include:

- 1) The two remaining trustees will be recruiting a third when we can.
- 2) Improve the new meeting space and repair the two containers within our budget.
- 3) Fill the empty gardens with new gardeners as soon as we can do so legally.
- 4) The bank account has maintained healthy positive balance and new projects are planned for 2022 include improvements to site security.
- 5) We continue to maintain membership of the NASLG which covers our insurance for third party injury and public liability and this has recently been renewed.
- 6) Recreate the shop with a range of tools and supplies available once site security improved.
- 7) Continue with upgraded security with hedge cutting, maintain and complete the fencing and continuing use of the safe padlocks.
- 8) We want improved use of the green waste area a levelled the area to ensure safe access by gardeners although currently this area has been filled again.
- 9) We will provide skips at appropriate times, to allow gardeners to clear up the site and remove rubbish from gardens. We aim to maintain this service again next year. Funding for the on-site toilets will ensure an effective maintenance schedule is sustained with help from site personnel.
- 10) Improve our biodiversity and ensure all gardeners are aware of acceptable practice and materials.
- 11) Improve communication with an upgraded website and regular open access meetings and on-site resources.

Issues to be addressed in 2022:

SECURE OUR SELF-MANAGED STATUS THROUGH ENGAGEMENT AND DISCUSSION WITH SOTCC.

- a) Applications for grants and additional funding to be submitted where these fit with our ambitions and priorities.
- b) The green waste area to be controlled and strict adherence to site policies enforced.

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- c) Members to be encouraged to be more involved in the committee process and decision making.
 - d) Empty plots to be cleared and new gardeners encouraged to take up suitable areas.
 - e) We will continue regular inspections and encourage all site users to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities particularly with the gates, and site security.

Nigel Barrett

Chair 11th July 2022

Gresty St Community Allotments Association

Treasurer's Report

Introduction

This report covers the period Jan-Dec 2021. During this period Albert Poyner was treasurer. I am writing this report as the newly elected treasurer.

Activity

Activity during the year continued to be limited due to some ongoing COVID restrictions as well as continuing to recover from the extreme challenges the period of the pandemic has placed upon us.

Income was wholly predicated on plot rents.

Expenditure focussed on usual regular outgoings such as insurance, water rates, membership of the NSALG. Other expenditure was for keeping the site functioning and in adequate repair.

Income and expenditure is explained in more detail below.

Income

The balance brought forward from the previous year was **£2159.85**

Income for this year was **£3225**

(rent from 65 plots, one of which was charged at half rent)

This gave a total balance of **£5384.85**

Expenditure

Expenditure this year totalled **£2157.72**

This comprised

Insurance. **£139.64**

Water rates. **£420.28**

NSALG. **£129.00**

Skips. **£560.00**

Clearing tip/

Digger. **£200.00**

Cleaning/

Repairs to toilet **£170.00**

Other site

expenses(materials,

labour etc). **£538.80**

End of year balance

This was. **£3227.13**

Savings Account

The balance on this account stands at **£3374.01**

Conclusion

As can be seen from the above the limited activity over the year led to reduced expenditure leaving the association with an increased balance at the end of the year of **£1067.28** over the previous year.