

MEETING MINUTES

Organisation:	The Gresty Street Community Allotments Association		
Date of Meeting:	8/05/2022	Start time:	11:00am
Location:	GSA	End time:	12:14am
Chair:	N Barrett	Minute taker:	N Cotton
1	MEETING OBJECTIVES		
1.1	APOLOGIES		
1.2	ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2022		
1.3	SETTING OF PLOT RENTAL COSTS FOR 2023		
1.4	THE FUTURE OF GRESTY STREET COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION		
	Options under discussion will include:		
	(a) Continuation as a self-managed site		
	(b) Joint management in conjunction with the city council allotment team		
	(c) Return to full city council control on a date to be determined		
1.5	COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2022		
1.6	ANY OTHER BUSINESS DEFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE MEETING		
2	ATTENDANCE		
2.1	PRESENT	2.2	APOLOGIES
	D.Marshall		H.Marshall
	N.Barrett		G. Clewlow
	A.R.Poyner		A.Meredith
	D.Muncey		
	S.Lovatt		
	S.Hill		
	P.Woodard		
	A.Dobraszczyk		
	H.Walley		
	N.Cotton		
	A.Thresher		
	D.Barnett		

M.Cotton	
R.Barlow	
R.Evan	
H.Dixan	
M.Eyre	
Mathew	
J.Thrasher	
3 AGENDA, DECISIONS, ISSUES	
3.1 TOPIC/ DISCUSSION NOTES	3.2 DECISION/ACTION
3.1.1 In Reference to 1.1, N.Barrett gave the appropriate apologies for the named persons in 2.2	Apologies excepted
3.1.2 In Reference to 1.2, N.Barrett explained that due to Covid -19 and not having held an AGM since 2019 that the voting would be held with the previous meeting minutes not produced to plot holders. And nominations are to be presented on the day during the meeting. This was seconded by S.Lovatt and voted for with all present voting yes apart from two plot holders. N. Barrett, said, "With that agreed by majority vote we shall now move to nominate and vote of officers and committee members. this will be carried out as per the GSAA constitution part 4) section iii), with a nomination, second nomination and a quorum of ten votes." The first appointment called was for the Charman of the committee The second appointment was for the position of Secretary The Third position called by N.Barrett was for the Treasurer. The fourth position called by N.Barrett was for the Vice-Chair. The final voting was called by N.Barrett for the positions of committee members	This was seconded by S.Lovatt and voted for with all present voting yes apart from two plot holders. S.Lovatt nominated N.Barrett seconded by M.Eyre this motion was carried by a quorum of 10 votes no further nominations were made. M.Eyre nominated N.Cotton and was seconded by S.Lovett, A.Dobraszczyzyc questioned to whom Nathan's last name was, answered by M.Eyre as "Cotton". N.Barrett called for all in favour of Nathan to become secretary and a quorum of ten votes was received no further nominations were made. D.Marshall proposed A.R.Poyner who declined the nomination, S.Hill was then nominated by N.Barrett and seconded by N.Cotton and voted into position with a quorum of ten votes no further nominations were made. S.Lovett nominated M.Eyre and Seconded by N.Cotton carried with a quorum of 10 votes no further nominations were made. S.Lovett suggested she has made a formal representation and would like to stand for the committee, along with M.Cotton. Then S.Lovett suggested P.Woodard who agreed. A.Dobraszczyzyc said he wanted to stand, and N.Barrett stated, "You can't stand." A.Dobraszczyzyc, said, "I can!". N.Barrett, said, "You can't stand you are still suspended." A.Dobraszczyzyc, said, "I am sorry." N.Barrett, said, "You are still suspended still suspended".

	<p>A.Dobraszczyk said, "The the way in which that procedure was carried out was incorrect. Look!"</p> <p>M.Cotton, said, "This is not Handforth parish council!". The room filled with laughter.</p> <p>A.Dobraszczyk said, "Oh hooo yer this is. You will find out when you get it. the uh the uh, when the council get involved in it."</p> <p>S.Hill, said, "Are there still committee positions available?".</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "Not now if these people are standing then that will be all the positions filled."</p> <p>N.Barrett called out the names of S.Lovertt, P.Woodard, M.Cotton, and H.Wally and said, "Let's vote on it please."</p> <p>This was then voted in with a quorum of 10 votes.</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "That now gives us a committee with officers, also the first committee meeting will determine the president's position which is usually when it is done. So we will leave it till then we do need a president because there are a lot of issues that are going to be discussed and chased through in the next 6 months. Some of which involve complaints and some other various things which the president will have to arbitrate on. If there are appeals against decisions made by the teams investigating them, so we will consider that at the first committee meeting "</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "I would also recommend to the secretary that we do have a committee meeting as soon as possible."</p> <p>N.Cotton, said, "One month?".</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "Yes."</p> <p>N.Cotton, said, "I will get the communication out."</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "Now we have a committee and officers sorted we can get on and sort this site out, I am very impressed with the number of plot holders that have turned up today."</p>
<p>3.1.3 In reference to 1.3</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "I am very concerned about the state of the sight, to be honest, and very concerned about the potential for us going back to Stoke Council. But I think we need to proceed on the basis that we stay self-managed. That is the position it has been made clear to Mr Meredith that we need to and wish to stay self-managed that is the reason for getting this meeting in this format today to give ourselves the authority to sort things out. That's really what all this is about. However, we do need to</p>	<p>N.Barrett, stated, "I suggest that the rent goes up to £65 a year next year if we are staying self-managed. That will cover the full cost of the £780 rent for the council and we haven't had a rent increase for several years. If we don't stay self-managed the rent becomes irrelevant because the council will set it anyway."</p> <p>S.Lovertt, said, "Which will be more than that."</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "The current rent for the council is anything over £70."</p> <p>D.Marshall, said, "It's £75 for them."</p>

<p>consider what our rental costs are going to be for next year we have been advised again by stoke council although nobody quite believes it we will be charged £780. For staying self-managed this is a rent that we are supposed to pay ever since we took on the lease to be self-managed. Originally it was meant to be a pound a year but we have never paid it.”.</p> <p>S.Lovett, said, “No wonder they want more of us.”.</p> <p>laughter filled the room.</p> <p>And Sue continued... “I am surprised they haven’t sent the bailiffs in!”.</p> <p>More laughter followed.</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, “It is going to be £200 an acre”.</p> <p>S. Lovett asked, “How big is an acre?”.</p> <p>N.Barrett replied, “This site is believed to be 9 acres, but I have had a formal communication with Andrew that it is going to be £780. Which I am going to hold him to if he’s telling me that I am going to hold him to that.”.</p> <p>S.Lovett asked, “What do we get for that?”.</p> <p>Also, S.Hill, said, “If he was here I would ask him what would we get in return?”.</p> <p>N.Barrett replied, “We will get him to the first committee meeting and get that established. Essentially I do not want to move on to that just yet because I want to go through the options”.</p>	<p>N.Cotton asked, “Can I just confirm then that that would be £130 for a double plot, because that’s a hike for people with double plots.”.</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, “Yes.”.</p> <p>S.Lovett, said, “When you think of the value for money that’s not bad”.</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, “I propose that it goes up to £65 which covers the cost of the rent if the rent changes and goes beyond the £780, which I am determined it won’t. We do have two bank accounts, One of which is our day-to-day bank account and the other one is an emergency fund. Albert, I believe we have something over £5000 in the current account and something over £2000 in our emergency account?”.</p> <p>A.R.Poyner, said, “Yes that is correct.”.</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, “So anything that goes beyond that we will be able to cover but the committee may decide to merge the two accounts over once we become self-managed probably in March next year but that’s up to us to decide. So that would be my proposal that we consider the rent rise to £65 a plot. Do I have a seconder for that?”.</p> <p>S.Lovett, stated, “yes I second that.”.</p> <p>N.Barrett, asked, “Is that approved?”.</p> <p>The majority of plot holders voted yes.</p>
<p>3.1.4 About 1.4</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, “Reason for the meeting today is obviously to get the committee and the committee’s key role will be in how we take this site forward, the city council are proposing three options...”.</p> <p>Then read the list A to C in reference to 1.4</p> <p>And continued... “One is to continue as a self-managed site but with some differences, the second option is joint management in conjunction with the council, but nobody understands how that would work. And the other one is to go back to full control of the city council. My personal is to I had a meeting with Antony here and he has stated openly he is against the continuation of self-managed sites, mainly because he believes there are some self-managed sites in the city that do not follow procedures processes that are legal.”.</p> <p>A.Dobraszczyk, said, “ Yer, yer, yer.”.</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, “Yes, we are not at risk of being in that group at the minute, he believes us to be one of the better-managed sites so he has no objection to us continuing to be self-managed</p>	<p>N.Barrett, said, “So on that basis, I would just like to ask you to endorse the approach that we stay self-managed.”.</p> <p>The majority present voted yes.</p> <p>A.Dobraszczyk, stated, “I am voting against.”.</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, “Your voting against?”.</p> <p>A.Dobraszczyk, said, “I am yes.”.</p> <p>N.Barrett then said, “ok so that’s noted.”.</p>

	<p>and maintaining the site and managing our affairs. What that would mean is we would re right part of our constitution to come more in line with theirs we would have a role to play with allocating the sites but all the recruitment for empty plots would be done by them. Even though we are self-managed they would do the recruitment for us, but we would have a veto an absolute veto on who was coming.”.</p> <p>D.Muncey, said, “Can I just say something, I have been on a couple of sites and when that was run by the council the plots are left years without anyone being put on them, they don’t seem to do anything.”.</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, “Well there is a massive waiting list.”.</p> <p>A.Dobraszczyk, said, “That is exactly the same situation here for ten years the plots have been uncontracted.”.</p> <p>S.Lovett, said, “I do believe the list is quite long for wanting an allotment, so I mean I should imagine there are a lot of people that, well, I have been asked how to get an allotment?, and I have said you apply for with the council.”.</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, “The process will be the same but they will nominate and we will have to allocate someone who is responsible for taking people around and showing them the site. Which is really what’s been happening now but it will become much more formal, the constitution will change so that disciplinary processes and one or two other things change and become more structured, and is transparent on to how things operate and another thing that I think we need to change anyway is make sure we understand what the roles of each of the officers, what roles and responsibilities are the actual committee members and what roles and responsibilities sit with the elected officers. We now know who they are so my reason for standing as chair to be honest is to make sure this site stays self-managed and sorts itself out, that’s my primary reason, I was not going to stand because my partner is not well but I am prepared to stand and quite happy to do it as I think it is worthwhile.”.</p>
<p>3.1.5 In reference to 1.5</p> <p>3.1.6 N.Barrett, said, “Community meetings, we have already touched on, I think we need one a month to be honest if people are prepared too, you don’t have to each one and I think Sundays are probably the best day it may not be.”.</p> <p>N.Cotton, said, “Can also say soon, in respect, I think that Andrew and the committee members we should have a meeting together so we can actually discuss properly what his issues are, because I don’t think we should just not note what he is saying, and I think that we should have a meeting with all the committee members with a strong committee and we try and find a resolve.”.</p>	<p>N.Cotton, said, “Can also say soon in respect I think that Andrew and the committee members we should have a meeting together so we can actually discuss properly what his issues are, because I don’t think we should just not note what he is saying, and I think that we should have a meeting with all the committee members with a strong committee and we try and find a resolve.”.</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, “I have no problem with any of that.”.</p> <p>N.Cotton, asked, “Are you happy with that Andrew?”</p> <p>A. Dobraszczyk, said, “Um I am happy to do that yes but I got some information to present to the, but it wait till we get to them. I am happy to do that and thank you for that purpose I am. But there is something else I wanted to say but I will do that in any other business.”.</p>

<p>N.Barrett, said, "I have no problem with any of that."</p> <p>N.Cotton, asked, "Are you happy with that Andrew?"</p> <p>A. Dobraszczyc, said, "Um I am happy to do that yes but I got some information to present to the but I'll wait until we get to them. I am happy to do that and thank you for that purpose I am. But there is something else I wanted to say but I will do that in any other business"</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "So that's as far as we need to go today I don't think we need to do anything else."</p> <p>S.Lovett, said, "So will there be nathan you will tell everyone that there is a meeting?"</p>	<p>N.Barrett, said, "So that's as far as we need to go today I don't think we need to do anything else."</p> <p>S.Lovertt, said, "So will there be nathan you will tell everyone that there is a meeting?"</p> <p>N.Cotton, said, "What I am going to do if everyone is happy with is take a photo of that sheet with the emails on."</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "You can take that sheet its for you as part of your new role." .</p> <p>N.Cotton, said, "I can have them great I will communicate by email as I prefer that, but I will do posters as well, but I would like to start getting regular emails out to everyone."</p> <p>S.Lovett, said, " And if hazel has got any more names and emails cans he passes them to Nath."</p> <p>D.Marshall, said, "Yes."</p> <p>S.Lovertt, said, "If she could let us have them and the perhaps the full set of whos who and then to get in touch."</p>
<p>3.1.7 In reference to 1.6</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "I would like to just conclude this by I recognise that clearly, Derick is not on the committee and no longer does he have a role, but he has done a sterling job as vice chair he has supported me, he's made changes, sustainable changes to the site. And I would just like to say that I would like to thank him for what he has achieved and what he's done."</p> <p>A round of applause filled the room</p> <p>And continued... "It does feel like a changing guard a bit I am pleased that it is, to be honest as I think we need to move forward with some structure and support and I would welcome anybody who is not even on the committee to come to our meetings, to be honest. It will be worthwhile."</p> <p>S.Lovett, said, "Well somebody's got to do the washing up."</p> <p>Laughter filled the room</p> <p>M.Eyre, said, "Nigel can I purpose you say thanks to Albert as well."</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "I was just going to come to that."</p> <p>S.Lovett, said, "Oh Yes."</p> <p>M.Eyre, said, " Oh sorry."</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "And the other I left this separate AI because I think and I recognise what you have done in the time that you have</p>	

been in the financial position you need to talk to Sarah because.”.

S.Hill, said, “Yes please do, not just about bathrooms we can talk about finances as well.”.

N.Barrett, said, “ We have to get signatures and we have to get trustees, we have to do a hell of a lot of work when we transfer as we found out, we do have signatories but, there is a debate about whether you should be a signature or not, to be honest.”.

S.Hill, said, “Yes.”.

N.Barrett, said, “They didn’t insist on it with you.”.

A.R.Poyner, said, “No they didn’t.”.

N.Barrett, said, “Any way that aside I am glad you have made a decision you can live with and I would like to really thank you for what you have done over the last couple of years.”.

Loud applause

N.Barrett, said, “ So that’s it from me, I really do not want to extend this meeting, to be honest.”.

S.Lovett, said, “No.”.

N.Barrett, said, “Beyond what, go on you got one minute.”.

S.Lovett, said, “Oh be quick my feet are hurting.”.

A.Dobraszczyk, said, “Let me just remind you that Mark said that I would be allowed to say what I said before because it’s not recorded but it will be recorded. Thank you. Nigel knows perfectly well what standard procedure the annual general meeting is, and actually.”.

Hustle and bustle as people start to leave

A.Dobraszczyk, said, “Because it prevents organisations from being run in a corrupt and being defrauded. By not presenting financial accounts which are open for all members to see, so I am objecting to the way in which this meeting is being conducted because no meeting no minutes of the previous general meeting have been sent out no annual audited general accounts have been presented to us so that we can see what has been seen, and money has been spent this thing (referring to the shed), for example, has been bought. Say nothing about what we have actually received for our money and in which that money has been paid. All I will say is this, this is a site that belongs to the city council. This organisation and I know from a lot more about this site than anybody else does even some of the officers. This site has a lease granted by the city council on specific, with specific clauses about this organisation should be run and that lease has

run out. So the council could evict all of us at the drop of a hat. We are tenants at will.”.

M.Eyer, said, “ We always have been though, we have got articles of association that’s all we have got.”.

A. Dobraszczyc, said, “You have got a lease”

M.Eyre, said, “I have got the document with me but I am not going to argue with you!”.

A. Dobraszczyc, said, “Ok that lease with the council has to be renewed, and I am raising objection to the renewal of the lease because of the way that this has been conducted. By the previous officers including N.Barrett.”.

N.Barrett, said, “ I think that’s pretty clear I think also”

M.Eyre, said, “Can I just interject here, because there will be people here worrying about this now before they go away, and they shouldn’t, with hanging over the statement, there is a new committee has been formed and the new committee can deal with finances for last year and we can call a general meeting after we have had one or two of the committee meetings to make the situation of the unusual circumstances of this meeting, so we have got the power to do that, so to allay anybody fears, I wouldn’t sit on a committee where I could not see the finances of the previous year I wouldn’t advocate we go forward in that situation and I know that N.Barrett is trying to get a committee together that going to try and achieve that goal in the immediate future, so if we need to call a general meeting which is in our articles of association we can do that, and we can invite all of you and you can all have your say yet again. So that can take place next month or the month after when we have got our ducks in a row.”.

N.Barrett, said, “Yes that is exactly what we need to do we don’t need to sit and chat over what happened 18 months ago in this meeting, we may need to do it in a committee meeting, where we have some formal complaints to address and we need to address them.

They have been in abeyance while we have been waiting for a committee which we now have so we will have to address them.”.

S.Hill, said, “Can I just say I think what S.lovertt said earlier is really important whats happened over the last couple of years has been dreadful, clearly there is stuff that needs sorting out, but we have got to think ahead, and think about the future and think about what we as a group of allotments do differently, and I feel really excited about that.”.

N.Barrett, said, “And as a side to that the lease which we currently have or don’t have, we are tenants through that lease, and that will be replaced by a contract. That is the intention of the council and that contract will be subject to us agreeing on it, and that’s the intention that

<p>Andrews intention is to give us a committee's chance to agree on it and also input into it".</p> <p>A. Dobraszczyc, said, "His name is Antony"</p> <p>N.Barrett, said, "I know, and Andrews objection is perfectly valid but needs must at the minute its practical and we can replace it with a general meeting, we have nothing to hide and we have never have had, never has been never will be and the only person who has ever asked for the accounts has seen them been through them, and not raised any objections that's where we stand, on a more serious end, I would really like to thank you all for coming, I really mean that better to be represented than not, we have a new committee who will take it forward thank you very much"</p>		
<p>4 ACTIONS ITEMS</p>		
<p>4.1 ACTION</p>	<p>RESPONSIBLE</p>	<p>DUE DATE</p>
<p>Next committee meeting to be set</p>	<p>N.Cotton</p>	<p>14/05/2022</p>
<p>Minutes and information to be sent out</p>	<p>N.Cotton</p>	<p>14/05/2022</p>
<p>5 NEXT MEETING</p>		
<p>Date: 29/05/2022</p>	<p>Time: 3 pm</p>	<p>Location: Gresty Street Allotment Site</p>
<p>Objective(s):</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apologies and Attendance 2. Minutes from the meeting 2019 3. Finances 4. Resolution of complaints 5. Site inspection 6. Officer rolls 7. Correspondence 8. AOB 9. Draft of next meeting 10. Date of a general meeting 	