

Kelvinside Allotments Association: Minutes Committee Meeting 15TH March 2016

Present: Catriona Renfrew (chair in absence of President and Vice President); Marilyn Boyd; Isobel Boyle; Marlies Pfiefer; John Hancox; Emma Taylor; Vicky Wince;

JH wished the meeting to record he is a full member elected at the AGM. CR responded that there is an opportunity to discuss Committee membership on the agenda and that he can raise his concerns at that point. JH restated he is a full member and does not accept the position which the President has set out to him.

Apologies: TG, MC and GMcD.

Acceptance of minute of meeting January 2016: CR asked those who had been present to confirm the meeting, minute was agreed. JH indicated he does not accept the minutes as the meeting should not have taken place without him. CR indicated that TG had written to JH explaining the outcome of the AGM and that the Association Constitution required a Committee meeting to agree coptions and that he was, therefore, not a member at that point. JH asked for it to be recorded that he did not accept that position. CR indicated that the Constitution is clear that if the outcome of a meeting is disputed the Chair's decision is final and TG decision on the AGM is therefore final. **Action: minutes agreed with note of JH dissent.**

Matters arising

- **Meeting re complaint:** CR confirmed member had indicated he would meet a single Committee member to try to resolve matters and she would try to arrange a date. JH indicated he would do the meeting CR suggested not appropriate as issues predate his Committee membership and member only willing to meet one Committee member. **Action: CR to arrange meeting.**
- **Japanese Knotweed:** TG was following up and awaiting a response from factors. **Action: agenda for next meeting**
- **Committee members:** correspondence with JH was attached to the meeting papers. JH had already indicated he did not accept the position TG had communicated. CR noted that the Association's President had set out that he was welcome to serve as a co-opted member, if that was not acceptable to him he could meet with TG on her return from Australia to discuss his views or could seek and EGM, under the Association's Constitution. MB confirmed the membership requirements for an EGM. ET asked what was the difference between co-opted and elected members. MB confirmed the only difference is co-opted members cannot vote. VW indicated that she was not aware the Committee had resorted to voting, approach has been to reach agreement. JH was concerned that he would be un co-opted and not able to put items on the agenda. Others confirmed that he could contribute items to the agenda and would be co-opted until the next AGM. JH asked for it to be recorded that he did not accept this position. CR noted that TG had accepted there was confusion at the AGM and the cooption approach was the appropriate way to resolve that confusion, enabling those who wished to be on the Committee to become members. **Action: JH to decide on his options.**
- **Communication:** Agreed MB to issue a start of season communication asap;
- **Clear ups:** include in communication move to first Wednesday and Saturday at both sites and list of jobs for flexible approach. **Action: MB to include in communication.**

Treasurer's Business

- CR set out financial position: as around £3500K in bank after we have paid rents to City council.
- Kirklee security: agreed last season £800 for Kirklee security Kirklee members to assess affordability of metal shed and perimeter security.
- Next major expenditure is compost; VW noted proposed supplier, costs and site access issues. **Action: compost to be supplied asap.**
- JH indicated his view that Committee is not properly constituted so CR is not treasurer and cannot spend money. MB noted office bearers are for three years and therefore CR is Treasurer in second year of term.

Committee Secretary's Business

- None noted

Membership Secretary's Business

- Plot changeovers;
- Plot viewing outstanding, being arranged;
- Julian plot awaiting vacation need to confirm date when they vacate plot and ask them to tidy;
- 5 more enquiries onto waiting list;
- 1 plot holder at Kirklee wants to move to half plot
- 1 plot holder at Julian wants to go to whole plot
- Issue about paths at Kirklee need general review. **Action: IB**

Site maintenance

- Water meter installed at Julian.
- Skips for both need communication to members. **Action: VW**
- Clear ups list of flexible jobs to be pulled together: **IB/GMcD/VW**

Open Days

- need to include dates in communication, Julian June 11th between 2 and 5 idea of a pizza van being explored. At next meeting need to develop list of tasks to ask for members help. For Kirklee suggested dates 3rd or 10th September to be confirmed.

Inspection proposals

CR introduced the item referencing the paper had been circulated with copies of all responses and proposed way forward, which would leave inspection season as now and change language and roll forward. JH indicated he had been told at AGM there would be consultation with members and that Committee could not change the rules. MB noted that all members had been issued the proposed changes and that Constitution requires the Committee to set the rules not the AGM. JH restated his view. VW indicated she felt that there were small numbers of people, 3 or 4, with issues, who Committee should talk to directly but the proposals in the paper were reasonable and supported by most of the response. ET supported recommendation in paper that we should not extend the growing season. MP indicated she was not in favour of an earlier start but suggested an informal review in March to try to avoid problem later. She supported carrying forward. JH said he had been picked on last year. CR asked JH to forward his own views which had not been included. JH indicated not worthwhile.

Action:

- **agreed, with note of JH dissent, to proceed with changes to language and to carry forward warnings.**
- **offers of meetings to 3 or 4 individuals raising wider issues**

- should have another discussion at next AGM;

Meadow area Kirklee:

Action: IB/MM /VW to resolve dispute between plot holders.

AOCB

CR raised email offering mediation. The general view was the committee members did not recognise the picture of wide concerns described. CR was of the view that 3 or 4 members had raised wider issues through the rules consultation and the Committee should offer to discuss those issues directly with those members. It was important not to confuse JH issues with his Committee membership, on which only three other members had been in touch, and any wider issues. MP was of the view her experience was there was a good atmosphere, JH considered there were issues with members at both sites and indicated he supported proposal. MB had not experienced a negative atmosphere. VW was of the view that members have issues we should be positively encouraging them to raise informally with the Committee for discussion, or if major an EGM offers a formal process with the Association's rules. ET indicated she was not aware of any issues and was neutral on the concept of mediation.

Action: CR to thank for her proposal but convey that Committee as a whole did not support it as a way forward, preferring to engage with members with issues directly. JH asked that his disagreement was recorded.

Date and time of next meeting

Committee members to hold 20/27th April to be agreed with TG and first plot inspection weekend of 16/17th April