

## Old Marston Mill Lane Allotment Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 1 November 2021 at the Victoria Arms Pub

**Present:** Masha Unkovskaya (in the Chair), Dana Vlad (Treasurer) Chris Mitchell (secretary), Celia Boyce, Ron, Corrina Turner, Dell Turner, David Fisher, Bill Agent, Hazel Rugg, Jim Head, Rob Bryant, Steve Mitchell

**Apologies:** Tim Cann, Caty Amey, Stephen Bond

1. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1 November 2019:** The minutes were approved. It was noted that due to Covid restrictions no AGM was held in 2020.
2. **Matters arising from the last meeting:** There were none
3. **Chair's report:**
  - a. *Creation of temporary parking bays in readiness for CPZ in Mill Lane:* The Chair reported that a working party is currently cutting down brambles and weeds on an abandoned area of the site which was chemically contaminated several decades ago and is unsuitable for growing vegetables. The site will be prepared for temporary parking bays for plot holders in readiness for the controlled parking zone on Mill Lane.
  - b. *Creation of Community Orchard:* The trees in the orchard plot, released last year, are being pruned and the ground cleared. Non-fruiting self-seeded trees will be cut down and the fruit from the orchard will be made available to all plot holders to collect and for apple pressing.
  - c. *Appointment of maintenance support:* The committee approved the appointment of David Fisher as maintenance person, to mow paths and communal areas and to keep at least one plot weed free in readiness for potential new plot holders. It was agreed that an honorarium of £120 per annum will be awarded for this work.
4. **Treasurer's report and audited accounts:** The accounts were not audited as the previous auditor failed to answer any emails. It was agreed that a new auditor will be found and the accounts presented at the next committee meeting and sent to all plot holders. Income (£825.00 from plot fees and Parish Council Grant) was slightly lower than expenditure (£859.00) in 2020/21 but the account still has a surplus of £3,600.00.

In 2021/22, there will be some equipment hire cost for the preparation of the parking bays and for ground maintenance. Rob Bryant donated a good quality rotavator to the association, but the lawn mower will need replacing. Agreed that Masha Unkovskaya will check with Needhams for a good quality second—hand lawn mower which can manage the allotment terrain.

## **5. Election of Committee:**

The following members were re-elected for another year:

Chair: Dr Masha Unkovskaya

Treasurer: Dr Dana Vlad

Secretary: Mrs Chris Mitchell

co-opted members: Ms Hazel Rugg

Mr Jim Head

Angie Brown was co-opted and replaces Dr David Bullock.

- 6. Collection of subs:** The committee agreed to keep the subs at £25.00 for a full plot and £12.50 for a half plot. By the end of the meeting 9 plot holders had failed to pay their subs and the secretary will write to give them a month's grace before sending a formal termination letter.

## **7. Any Other Business:**

- a. *The Agreement between Marston Parish Council and Old Marston Mill Lane Allotment Association* expires in October 2027. AGREED that the Secretary will write to the Parish Council to start negotiations for an extension of the agreement. There were no vacant plots in 2020/21, with a large number of plot holders being residents of Bradlands. There is high expectation that with the building of the new developments alongside Mill Lane, many more residents will be interested in acquiring a plot and it was hoped that the Parish Council will extend its lease beyond 2027.
- b. *Agreed that equipment in the lock-up* needs labelling, especially the communal tools. An equipment hire book will be reinstated, as last year nobody was available for keeping a record and thus very little income was generated from the hire of the rotavator. With the new rotavator from RB being made available it is likely that more plot holder will want to use it.
- c. *Agreed that the committee will inspect plots* on a 3-monthly basis and contact plot holders who are neglecting their plots with a view to evicting those who consistently fail to work their plots or allow weeds to spread.
- d. *Angie Brown agreed to set up a Facebook page* for the Association and the secretary will send joining instructions once this has been completed.
- e. *Agreed that the association would purchase two loads of manure* and sell these at cost to plot holders. ACTION: Corrina Turner to find best price and arrange delivery..