

**Friends of Ascott Allotments**  
**Minutes of Winter General Meeting**  
**Date of Meeting: Saturday 16 December 2017 at 3pm**

**Present:**

David Johnson	Jerry Foulkes
Ian Symonds	Jo Winters
Elizabeth Adams	Enrique Joga
Helen Marriage	Viktor Gybrevosky
Tom Alley	Donna Moore
Debbie Fogarty	Geraldine Oudin
Isabella Castle	Charlie Smith
Stephen Cole	Paul Carter
Tom Challenor	Clive Herring
Richard Jones	David Parsons

**Apologies:**

Safi Ferrah  
Andrea Miller  
Jane Challenor  
Jean Marc Callant

1. **Minutes of Summer General Meeting on 4 August:**

Henrich Pych and Isabella Castle had sent apologies for the meeting but these had not been recorded.

The minutes were then accepted as accurate record of the meeting.

2. **Matters arising from Summer General Meeting**

2.1 **Composting Toilets**

Clive Herring and Debbie Fogarty have been looking into these and visited a site to look at a double toilet, wood/plastic composite with solar panel handbasin light.

Cost will be £850-£1300 per unit, Council can source them (don't pay VAT).

We would need to provide concrete base and battery (Joseph Mangar may have a supply of batteries).

Patrick Williams happy to advise on putting up the unit.

It was suggested that we approach the Ward Forum for funding; it would need the accounts.

It was thought that permission is not required from Ealing Council to put in the concrete slabs.

Ros Rees Councillor contact but is retiring.

Clive and Debbie happy to continue with the project management.

Debbie's report on the visit to investigate the Composting Toilet at Cleveley Crescent is circulated with these minutes.

2.2 **FOAA Coordinators**

Thanks were given to Paul Carter who is now a Communications Coordinator.

2.3 **Dead Hedge**

Helen Marriage is looking for long whippy pieces at least 2m long for the dead hedge.

## 2.4 **Parking**

Helen Marriage reported that the standard letter suggests that you need a pin / password – you don't. You pay the standard visitor charge 60p per hour. The email is to be resent to everyone again and information put on the website and Facebook.

Helen Marriage to report back on use.

## 2.5 **First Aid Kits**

No action

## 3. **Coordinator Reports**

### 3.1 **Finance** – Ian Symonds

We have bought a PAYG phone for contact; number will be at gates.

We have been gradually replacing the items stolen earlier in 2017.

Secure container for storage of the Friends' equipment: David Farrell has offered to place an order; the supplier will accept a purchase order.

Funds available are approximately £2,000.

### 3.2 **Communications** – Paul Carter

We have a certificate and trophy from London in Bloom; Chris Welch had entered us. Awards were given to Ascott Allotments and Merton – ours was in recognition of diversity.

Chris Welch has suggested entering the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' award – to do with raising the standard of community environmental awareness – looking at education / environmental practices.

There are free water butts available (ex pitted olive containers – grey plastic black lid) – first come first served – contact Safi Ferrah.

Facebook – easy way to communicate information – everyone is encouraged to like or follow the Facebook page.

Jo Winters gave thanks to all coordinators.

## 4. **Work Parties**

New Council rule that everyone should participate at one 2 hour work party slot per year.

There was a good turnout at the work party in December.

Coordinators will keep a register of attendees.

Monthly work parties will be publicised on Facebook to encourage attendance.

## 5. **Bonfires**

Helen Marriage has done a lot of awareness raising about this issue.

Not allowed to light bonfires during school hours (for Grange School).

Need to send out a reminder of being respectful to neighbours when using a bonfire.

Helen's survey results and discussion points are circulated with these minutes.

## 6. **Plot letting** – Helen Marriage

A successful session was held a few weeks previously.

7. **Herbicides**

A question was raised about the use of herbicides on the site – neighbouring plot sprays herbicides but ignores complaints although this is covered by the allotment rules. Glyphosate harmful to humans and bad for soil.

Geraldine Oudin to write a piece about it and publicise on website and Facebook.

8. **Mesolithic tools**

Clive Herring brought the Mesolithic tools found on the allotment for people to see at the meeting.

9. **Allotment Association**

Debbie Fogarty has been elected secretary of the Allotment Association and has written a piece to clarify the difference between the Allotment Association and the Friends.

Clive Herring has stood down as treasurer of the Allotment Association.

There are potatoes, onions and shallots on sale in the shop – to be posted on Facebook.

10. **Friends Hut plot**

David Johnson reported that the plot at the Friends Hut has been dug over and the plan is to plant a vineyard; this could be funded by Jennifer Woodhouse's recent donation.

11. **Next Meeting:** will be held around 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018, date to be confirmed.