**Marlow AllotmentS Association:**

**Hanging Hill: 31 May 2022: 3pm**

Attendance: J Chanoir (Chair), S Miller (Secretary), M Talbot (Treasurer), J Stilliard (HH),H Stevenson (FP), R Harker (FP), Fred Tillier (FP), Denise Bagge (FP)

Apologies: P Cooper (HH). Guest attendee: John Holland

**1.Treasurer’s Report and membership**

Maren Talbot (MT) reported that overall finances were not as good as at this point last year. This was because of less money from donations and the end of chicken pellet sales. The seed discount from Kings looked fairly healthy and the new catalogue will be out at the end of June. Looking ahead it was hoped that some money could be raised on donations for tools given to the Association. The Committee thanked MT for the work she had undertaken to keep down costs on the insurance charges. On membership, MT said that there were currently 134 members compared to 146 at this stage last year.

Action: Web charges were now due and Juliette Chanoir (JC) would liaise with MT and Sylvia Miller (SM) when this was clearer.

**2.Waiting lists, vacant and neglected plots**

Marlow Town Council (MTC) had issued letters to tenants with neglected plots following inspections of both sites at the end of March and in May. Tenants have 21 days to remedy the situation or notify MTC of the reason. The current waiting list is as follows: 6 Hanging Hill; 5 Foxes Piece; 1 either site. Vacant plots: 1 Hanging Hill; 2 Foxes Piece. MTC was proposing to let some smaller size plots (2 or 3 pole) to see if tenants might find this a useful starting point in learning about allotment gardening.

**3.Triangle**

SM reported that the Covid lock downs had made it very difficult to progress work on the Triangle. It was also proving slow to engage schools as a possible replacement for the groups who had once taken tenancies. MTC was leading on an approach to Great Marlow School.

**4.Track damage at Hanging Hill**

MT said that deep holes in the track had caused damage and needed action. The Committee agreed that this was an infrastructure issue for discussion with MTC at the next Allotment Working Party meeting.

**5. Website and Facebook**

JC said that she would now remove the Covid banner from the website. The Committee agreed to a proposal from Thames and High Wycombe Dahlia Society to put a message on the MAA website.

**6.Overhanging trees and shrubs**

Denise Bagge (DB) explained that MTC had reviewed both sites in autumn 2021 and more recently in May 2022 and as a result there had been clearance and tree cutting. Work over the summer was expected to include, for example, removal of a sapling and cutting of Elderberry, inspection and pruning of walnut trees and clearance of the walkway to the orchard at Hanging Hill. The committee agreed that it was important to notify any tenant likely to be impacted by proposed work.

Action: DB to review work with MTC in Autumn and identify next stage of work.

**7. Seed Potato Trial Swap in February 2022**

DB said that there had been no real interest in the seed potato swap that took place at Foxes Piece and it was not worth doing again. The Committee discussed options for holding seed and plant exchanges now that the Association had the use of the hut built by John Holland in the orchard at Hanging Hill.

Action: MT said that she would offer surplus plants for a small donation in June.

**8.Events and bonfires**

There had been low attendance at recent events and SM was keen to seek views in advance about whether to hold a barbecue in July. Bonfires at the two sites would be an item for discussion with the MTC at the next Allotment Working Party.

Action: SM to establish level of interest in attendance at a barbecue in July.

**9.Newsletter**

SM invited committee members to identify items for the next newsletter. This might include for example, items on encouraging wildlife and bees, and on managing trees.

**10.Woodchip bays**

SM reported that there was interest in establishing another wood chip bay at Foxes Piece. SM was liaising with MTC about where this would be built.

**Any Other Business**

The committee held the meeting in the hut that John Holland had built at Hanging Hill using and recycling a wide range of materials. The hut was a tremendous resource for the Association and the committee thanked John for his time and creativity.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting was likely to be sometime in the last 2 weeks of September. The main focus of the meeting would be preparations for the AGM.

Action: SM asked committee members to send her details of availability in September.