

## Minutes of Marlow Allotments Association 26 September 2022

Present:- Officers : Treasurer: Maren Talbot, Secretary: Sylvia Miller,

Committee Members: John Stilliard, Fred Tillier, Richard Harker, Huw Stevenson & Guest Ian Brown

Apologies:- Peter Cooper, Juliette Chanoir & Denise Bagge

1. **Apologies and absences.** SM presented Juliette Chanoir's apologies and said that whilst she was standing down as chair and from the committee that she would still be working on the MAA website and Facebook.
2. **Appointment of Chair & Minutes secretary.** It was agreed that Huw Stevenson was to be the Chair of the meeting & John Stilliard to act as minutes secretary.
3. **Matters arising from the last meeting.** It was agreed that there were none.
4. **Treasurers report.** Maren Talbot presented the treasures report. This will be completed by the 31 October 2022. There were 153 members last year with 144 this year. More than 50% of the tenancies are members of the association. The meeting accepted the report.
5. **Plots.** SM reported that there were no vacancies at the moment but that there would be at least 4-5 coming up at each site by the end of October. There are currently 24 people on the waiting list, 11 at HH, 13 at FP and 1 for either site.
6. **Overhanging trees.** MTC plan pruning of two trees at both sites, this is a continual process over the coming years. Bucks County Council will carry out an inspection later this year. MTC will not cut down live trees.
7. **Events and Bonfire.** There were 2 BBQs earlier in the year which were well attended and enjoyed. The Dahlia talk was very well received. Maren Talbot is holding an Orchid talk on the 11 October 2022. HS & Ian Brown agreed to assist her with the preparation. Bonfires will be allowed at both HH & FP in the months of November & December provided that only incinerators are used and are not smoky.
8. **Amended MAA Rules.** MT provided a handout containing suggested amendments to the MAA rules. There were discussed and those present unanimously accepted the changes. These will be put forward at the AGM for all members to vote for or against the rule changes.
9. **AGM.** It was agreed that as Juliette will be standing down a new Chair was needed; Huw Stevenson offered to undertake the role for one year only. Set up starts at 6.45 when Committee Members should try to arrive at 6.45 to assist, doors open 7pm. The main tables & side tables for Registers of Attendance & Membership, plus ample seating must be in place before doors open. HS, IB, & JS will help with the set up and assist MT with the recording of attendance and membership. Note that there will be no representation from MTC as they have another meeting that night. FT & RH will not be able to attend.
10. **Newsletter.** This will be released shortly and will mainly be about the AGM.
11. **Wood chip bays at FP.** Permission has been granted for a 2<sup>nd</sup> woodchip bay at FP.
12. **AOB.** It was agreed that a gift of the value of £20 will be presented to John Holland, along with a plaque on Holland's Hut in recognition and thanks for the work that he has contributed to the HH site. MT will organise the Plaque & HS will obtain the gift from the Rebellion brewery using a member's discount this will be presented to John at the AGM by the Chair.  
Badgers have been increasingly entering HH site and damaging plots – strawberries, sweetcorn, carrots etc. SM will compile a report which will be proposed to Members at the AGM to ask the council for advice to resolve this matter.  
An association member has asked about what impact the potential film studio development could have on the allotments; it was agreed SM will refer to the tenant for more details & discuss this at the AGM. FT commented that whilst hosepipes can be used to water food plants but are not allowed to be used to water flowers. SM will try to add this as a reminder to the newsletter, if there is space for it.

Next meeting early January 2023.