Minutes of Marlow Allotments Association meeting 7th August 2023

Present :- Huw Stevenson (Chair), Sylvia Miller (Secretary), John Stilliard (minutes), Maren Talbot (Treasurer), Denise Bagge, Ian Brown, Fred Tillier.

1. **Apologies for absence**. Richard Harker, Pete Cooper
2. **Appointment of Minutes secretary.** JS was appointed.
3. **Matters Arising.** Nothing was reported to come out from the last meeting and the minutes were accepted.
4. **Treasurer’s report.** This waspresented by MT. The administration costs for Kings has been reduced, MT reported that there may be a problem in the future due to obsolescence with the software system she uses; but there are ways round this. The report was accepted.
* **Waiting lists, vacant and neglected plots.** There are 26 on the waiting list (10 FP, 8 HH and the balance either). There are no vacant plots at present but termination notices have been sent out and the numbers will be issued to SM by MTC shortly. There are 4 small plots to be made available in the triangle; 2 have been spoken for. These will be available when the plots have been cleared by community payback workers. The average time waiting for an allotment is approximately 4 months. MTC will be carrying out further site inspections in October.
1. **Overhanging trees and shrubs.** There has been a good response of emails sent re this subject; Denise & Melissa of MTC are dealing with them. MTC have a policy of not pruning or cutting back trees whilst they are green so action will have to wait until later on in the year.
2. **AGM 40 years.** This has been booked for the 02 Nov 2023. This will be in the council rooms; the exact location and which council officers will attend is to be determined. SM requested that committee members attend at least 15 minutes before the start to allow chairs to be set up, the door to be manned, tables set up for the register and memberships to join the association etc. DB suggested that a raffle would be a good idea as it worked well last time. **Action all to come up with ideas for prizes – no more than 5.**
SM said that as this was the 40th anniversary that drinks (Beer, cider, wine & soft drinks) should be available in plastic cups. As they will be given away there is no need for licencing. It was agreed that when the invitation to the AGM is sent out that it includes a request that people confirm that they will be attending so that drink quantities can be better estimated.
3. **Committee Nominees** SM. HS & IB supplied details of their proposers & seconders, a request for new committee members will be in the newsletter.
4. **Events.** There will be a Dahlia Talk on 20th August at 18.30. No further events are planned.
5. **AWP meeting.** SM has spoken to Debbie; this meeting will have to be in September/October. Debbie will send out an invitation. Ideas will be circulated before and it is up to individual plot holders to raise questions etc.
6. **Newsletter**. SM said that this will cover the AGM in detail and will include a push on the uptake of the spare tools and request new committee members.
7. **Gt Marlow school**. SM said that she & MT had visited the school at their request as they plan to start a new allotment project and would like assistance in organising the plot and also kitchen to cook the vegetables from the new plot. The project is at a very early stage at the moment. It was suggested that Marlow Rotary be contacted as they will assist in starting things up but not ongoing work. SM asked that anyone who wanted to help contact her or MT.
8. **AOB** Pete Cooper asked that the fencing at the top of HH be repaired as it has broken down & can let animals through. SM said that the fencing had been repaired about 5 years ago to keep deer out; but that it had been broken by tenants to dump rubbish. This will be discussed at the AWP and we will be asking it to be done in stages.
The water system at the bottom end of HH was turned off as there was damage to the pipes at the Chiltern road entrance which requires much of the pipe work there to be replaced; as this will be a professional job it will take time to resolve but will be done as soon as possible.
It was agreed that committee members should introduce themselves to allotment holders and ask if they needed a seed catalogue and as that use of this would require membership of the association thus (hopefully) raising numbers. MT asked that Juliette amend her email address.
9. **Next Meeting** – there will be no more meetings before the next AGM. The next meeting will be in January.