

## **CVWHAS Committee meeting**

### **Thursday, 17 March 2022, via Zoom**

#### **Present:**

Roger Dean (55 CV)  
Jenny Embleton (118 CV) Treasurer  
Nick Fry (64 CV) Site Rep. CV  
Jane Griffin (47 WH) Site Rep. WH  
Mary Ledgard (26 CV)  
Arthur Tallon (77a WH)

#### **Apologies:**

Peter Elliot (49 WH) Site Rep. WH  
James Gilderoy (37 CV)  
Anna Moulson (77 WH)  
Paul Skelly (37 CV)

**Chair/Minute taking:** JE

#### **Agenda**

1. Minutes from last meeting held on 16 Oct 2021 and any matters arising
2. Outside Hub (bench, groundwork) - using grants received
3. Hub rota
4. Report back from BHAF meeting
5. Update on lettings and Site Security
6. Events - Astro, potatoes?
7. New gas canister for Hub
8. AOB

#### **Minutes**

##### **1. Minutes from last meeting held on 16 Oct 2021 and any matters arising**

**1.1** Minutes from last meeting and the AGM have been uploaded on website.

**1.2** Free banking no longer available, fees are £5 per month. Need to wait until we have a new Secretary and Chair before we change bank (at the moment JE is the only named official on the bank account). If we do decide to move bank, JE explained it is hard to find free banking for charities / community groups now.

**Action:** ML will ask Black Rock Association Treasurer which bank they use.

**1.3** Committee membership was not discussed at the meeting.

**Action:** discuss at next meeting.

##### **2. Outside Hub (bench, groundwork) - using grants received**

PS and JG successfully applied for a grant of £405 from East Brighton Trust to fund heavy duty underlay, gravel and boundary bricks for the extension and a replacement bench. We also still have the £150 from St George's Church to be used for ground work. The funds are in the bank account. PS and JG have offered to help purchase the goods and we will need a working party once materials are delivered.

**Action:** JE to liaise with PS and JG re purchasing. Committee arrange working party when ready  
JE to upload information on website

### **3. Hub rota**

It was agreed we will open 2 weekends per month in May, June, July and August; rest of year only first Sunday in month. The first meeting in May (1 May) will be a Seedling Swap.

**Action:** JE will send out the rota so committee members can indicate their availability; we can then request help from the members if necessary

**Action:** ML will produce poster

### **4. Report back from BHAF meeting**

**4.1** NF reported back. Interesting meeting held, all good news. Allotment Strategy going well; relations between all parties (BHAF, the allotment service and parks department) are good, they have agreed priorities and roles and started to implement it. Beulah Knight is the Allotment Strategy Officer, her post has been extended for further year.

**4.2** BHAF has lots of money, no one currently applying for development fund. They are particularly keen to fund projects that benefit the sustainability of sites, either financially or environmentally. For example, we might want to buy water butts to be given out to plot holders. ML suggested perhaps International Bulk Container tanks at the hub with guttering and downpipes etc.

**Action:** arrange another meeting to discuss what we could apply for.

**4.3** Letting of plots. It is understood that the allotment service agreed they would inform people on the waiting lists when there is a plot available for them; they would then be directed to the BHAF website so they can contact the relevant Site Reps directly. However, JG is concerned it is not yet in place.

**Post meeting:** It seems the allotment service are now suggesting they need to consult with the site reps before the BHAF proposal is implemented and are proposing another system.

**Action:** NF will keep us informed when he hears anything further from BHAF

**4.4** BHAF AGM, Wednesday, 6 April, 7pm at Brighthelm Centre. There is a poster available to advertise. Also, there will be a Question Time with councillors and council officers responsible for allotments. The councillors will be: Robert Nemeth, Nancy Platts and Jamie Lloyd. Questions need to be applicable to all sites, not specific to one site and BHAF have requested questions are sent at least a week before the meeting. Suggestion that if we have any questions they are sent to NF who will forward them.

**Action:** Anyone wishing to send a question to send to NF

**Action:** ML put AGM poster in our noticeboards and JE inform members of meeting

**4.5** Report released by BHAF following research grant which shows allotments are saving the city hundreds of thousands a year, more information will be available at the AGM. Link to information: <https://www.bhaf.org.uk/content/about/issues/the-financial-value-benefits-of-allotments>

### **5. Update on lettings and Site Security**

**5.1** PE and JG have recently done 2 letting sessions, one on each site; 40 people contacted for WH site, only 5 turned up and same on CV but one since opted out; therefore we have 9 new plot holders across the 2 sites.

JG explained it has proven extremely difficult under the current system. JG said she has requested that the allotment office do a cull of the waiting lists to ensure the people being contacted are still interested. No one outside the allotment office knows the details of the waiting lists due to GDPR

issues. JG agrees that the BHAF idea (see 4.30) would solve the issue. She also suggested that when people sign up they should give permission to pass on contact details to Site Reps. It is believed there are about 20 vacant plots at the moment. Hopefully this will be sorted soon due to planting / growing times.

**5.2 Site security.** JG and PE have asked for padlocks to be welded to the gates, due to regular theft of some padlocks. There was a short discussion about whether CVWHAS might fund the welder but we would need permission as it's the council's responsibility and council property.

## **6. Events**

It was suggested that events are a good way to involve more plot holders. We should be more proactive, especially to new plot holders. A flyer would be a good idea and also committee members can talk to neighbours. Also, use of notice boards.

**Action:** *JE produce a flyer*

It was agreed that a Seedling Swap will be held on 1 May at the same time as the Hub opening.

**Action:** *advertise on notice boards, website and via email*

There is still interest in the Stargazing event which had to be postponed in the winter; ML will contact Brighton Astro to see if they are still interested. Because the preparation has already been done it should be fairly straightforward to organise. It would be better to hold sooner rather than later due to longer day times. A poster will be needed.

**Action:** *ML contact Brighton Astro in the first instance; if going ahead the subgroup will organise the event*

Potato event is not going to go ahead.

Plot walk around was seen as a good idea but needs to be planned at later meeting.

**Action:** *discuss at next meeting*

## **7. New gas canister for Hub**

A new canister is needed for the Hub; ML kindly agreed to get one.

**Action:** *ML will liaise with JE*

## **8. AOB**

Taps on site, hopefully CV will be the next site to be upgraded by Southern Water.

**Action:** *NF will try to find out what is happening*

Dogs off lead is still a problem. It is against the rules and plot holders can lose their plot if they continually break the rules. If there is a problem, it is suggested that the person either speaks to the dog owner or tells the Site Reps or council.

**Action:** *Put a reminder on notice boards*

## **9. Date for next meeting**

To be agreed