Coton Community Allotments Association

The funding for the allotment project has been provided by Shropshire Council

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 29TH February 2020 @ 14:00 FOR 14:30

THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE, CORPORATION LANE, SY1 2NU

1) **Present:**

Simon Howard (SH)	Plot 15
Kay Hawkins (KH)	Plots 21 + 22
Charles Mansell (CM)	Plot 46 + 43
Clare Owen	Plots 4 + 5
Fred Owen	Plots 12, 13 + 14
Pat Mansell	Plot 49
Tony + Julia Lord	Plots 16 + 17
Phil + Lib Oliver	Plot 18
Kayleigh Hall	Plot 3 + 6
Doreen Hancock	Plot 23 + 24
Martin Howard	Contractor

Apologies:

Robert Copland, Susie Roy and Fiona Owen.

SH welcomed the room and thanked them for their attendance. Meeting opened at 14:30.

2) CM ran through a brief synopsis of the minutes from 2019 AGM. It was agreed that these were a fair representation with all actions arising having been completed.

3) SH went through his Chair's Report for 2019, which covered agreeing plot fees for the coming year with the local council and the landowner, renewing the site lease for a further 3 years, the transition to version 3 of the site rules and constitution, issues with the woodchip pile and site repairs.

CM discussed the continued compost bin development on site and stated that good use was being made of the incinerator bought previously.

Adding to/extending the existing water supply was discussed, potentially with new tap(s) to include a location near the big pear tree. Several members asked if it would be feasible to install communal hose pipes to make it easier to water plots in the summer months, especially for members that struggle carrying heavy watering cans. Although the Committee are generally sympathetic of the situation, SH noted that that using hosepipes is currently

against the site rules (to promote the use of rainwater harvesting) and this would need to be addressed.

Action: Committee to investigate installing additional tap(s) as well as changing the rules to allow communal hose pipe use. Assuming the rule banning hosepipes is changed, a few strategically placed communal hosepipes would be provided from existing funds for member use.

General site maintenance by members was noted and appreciated, with the encouraged use of the woodchip pile around the site on communal areas.

Concern was raised over the need for additional intervention regarding vacant or plots that have become overgrown. The Committee discussed the method of assessing the circumstances of members and how best to intervene. Several members in attendance stated they would be prepared to help if they were permitted.

Action: Committee to produce a method/policy for overgrown plot intervention.

4) CM briefly covered membership over 2019. We have been well occupied with a few plots becoming vacant and re-occupied and there is currently a short waiting list.

   Previous advertising on social media has proven more successful than other methods. Once the 2020 fees have been collected, the Committee will have a better idea about which plots are vacant. As per the previous AGM, CM has actively tried to maintain empty plots so as they would be appealing to prospective members.

   Action: CM to prepare a list of vacant plots, in order that they can be cleared. SH to chase all outstanding plot fees at end of March.

5) KH took the attendees through a summary of accounts which had been prepared.

6) Election of officers: SH, CM and KH to continue as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. In terms of non-committee roles, the Committee is responsible for any fires on site, other than individual member use of the incinerator. Social events are encouraged and they would receive Committee backing; no volunteers for this specific role.

7) SH mentioned that a formal workday/task list would not be required this year as the site is in general good condition as a result of several members' hard work. It was agreed that as and when any task that needs action, the Committee would notify all members for any assistance with it when they are on site.

8) Committee advised that no fundraising was expected to be needed during this year, but it would be good to have a social event. Suggestions welcome.

9) AOB: Clare Owen and her partner David are currently in the process of becoming members of the British Beekeepers Association. When they have attained membership, it was agreed that they would be welcome to investigate having a number of hives on site.

   Meeting closed at 15:30