



## **Notes of the Zoom Meeting Held Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Due to the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 it was not possible to hold a face to face meeting of the Committee Members originally scheduled to take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The Chairman therefore organised a Zoom meeting and invited all committee members to attend.

In order to keep all plot holders up to date it was agreed that a copy of the Chairman and Site Managers' reports would be summarised as below and published on the WWAA website.

### **Chairman's Message.**

Dear WWAA plot holders,

I hope you and your families are keeping safe under these difficult times.

Our May committee meeting was cancelled, and committee members invited to an on-line meeting instead. Martin Barnett HPR, Robin Green SG and I dialled in. Though informal due to low numbers, it shows that it can be done and a good successful discussion followed. Hopefully, we'll be able to meet face to face in July.

Bob Hughes.

## **WWAA Committee Reports for 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

### **Chairman's Report:**

COVID19 restrictions have dominated this period and our allotments have become a government approved haven for our plot holders to get out of the house, exercise and prepare for the growing season ahead. My site, Warsash, has been very busy and is looking wonderful. HPR too looks great when I visited recently. There are many examples of members supporting each other and together with site managers are to be thanked for supporting their plot holders during these difficult times.

The committee were asked via email to finally approve the application to the charities commission for charitable incorporated organisation CIO status after a lot of hard work was put into developing a new CIO constitution. Unfortunately, the committee's overall decision was against progression, generally believing that the association did not require charity. Now without limited liability offered by CIO status, committee will be asked to consider the need for indemnity insurance.

Meetings have been postponed and SharePoint rollout placed on hold until restrictions are relaxed, or on-line training used. A trial Zoom meeting is booked for 5<sup>th</sup> May committee meeting and, as numbers are likely to be low, it will not be considered a formal committee meeting, though treasurer and site reports should be made available to the membership.

A meeting room is available on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at St Johns Church for the AGM and committee are asked to decide if this is acceptable.

Stay safe and keep digging.

Bob Hughes.

**Chairman**

## Treasurers Report May 2020:

Payments cleared since March Meeting:-				
General Acc. HPR	Water (6 Meters)	£	258.04	
				Total £ 258.04
	WAR Fuel	£	33.56	
				Total £ 33.56
	O/Head Hall Hire-March	£	15.50	
	Sharepoint	£	44.42	
				Total £ 59.92
		<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 351.52</b>
Produce Account	Stock	£	1238.81	
	Ground Rent	£	675.00	
		<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 1913.81</b>

P.J.B.Pike. Hon.Treasurer – WWAA

## Treasurers Notes:

**Water Bills:** The Water on HPR is shown on six Meters and the Invoices have been revised to show the Meter readings as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. On other sites, Invoices may have been received but due to the present 'lockdown' they are sat in Locks Heath.

**Budgets:** The Budget Sheets have been updated where necessary and circulated to Site Managers except Posbrook who maintain their own. Those on Sharepoint have also been updated.

**BACS and Cards:** I have had problems sorting this out. I seem to recall my personal Account was simple but WWAA is obviously a Business. As you know at present our cheques require any two from three signatures. To operate BACS etc. this may not be possible. Therefore we have to have a new mandate which is not as originally advised and was only informed on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Rent:** Have we had any response from FBC as to the 5% increase in rent with the Covid-19 in force and the uncertainty of what, if any, restrictions in the future? Although Allotments could still be visited at present, paying heed of social distancing, I believe few Plots are being worked at this time. Has anyone thought of reducing next years rent?

**Site Maintenance:** It was highlighted on HPR that the pathways were becoming overgrown and Tenants were misusing mowers in efforts to cut the paths. This is presumably common to all Sites. Are there volunteers willing to clear the paths and be compensated for their work? Could we hire more suitable mowers to use? It is realised training may be necessary. Just a thought!

**Equipment:** When funding was highlighted recently and using it to obtain mowers etc., there was a sudden need to obtain various items which have never been highlighted at Committee previously. With our present finances we ought to be capable of purchasing what is required but not necessarily all at the same time. Although we may get discount if purchased in bulk!!

**Warsash Site Maintenance:** Gill enquired at the March Meeting as to whether payment has been made to CPS for the work carried out. I have seen no Invoices for the work. I last checked on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Any Invoices from then to date have not been checked, being isolated away from home.

## Posbrook Road:

We have no vacant plots and all rents have been paid, there is a waiting list of 2, most of the plot holders are keeping their plots neat and tidy. I have no plots that require any action after a walk about this week. The annual rent has been paid. **John Parsons**

### **Trading Hut:**

Shut until further notice. The invoice for March from our supplier has not been sent to us. **John Parsons.**

### **Sarisbury Green:**

#### **1. Vacancies:**

No vacancies available for lease at Sarisbury. All plots have been let.

#### **2. Waiting List:**

There are 5 persons on the Sarisbury waiting list who have applied since March 2020.

#### **3. Financial profile and 2019/20 Budget:**

At the time of preparation of this report, there was 1 part rent still due amounting to £30 according to the Treasurer's records due to 'hardship'. Our financial position is broadly in line with budgeted spending.

#### **4. The effects of Coronavirus:**

There has been an increase in the number of plot holders visiting the Sarisbury allotment site on a daily basis to 'exercise' but limited to spending no more than an hour at a time there. Clearly plot holders have been focusing on spring cultivation and planting their own plots.

In order to keep the grass areas and pathways mown and to deal with 'strimming' areas and an overgrown 29A plot, we have 'employed' casual student labour currently at a cost of £70 to support David and myself. Both of us have limited mobility due to medical reasons at the moment.

#### **5. Complaints:**

None.

#### **6. Improvements to Sarisbury Green Site:**

There has been no contact from FBC Estates Department regarding our boundary dispute with 26, St. Paul's Road.

Any further major improvement work, including use of CPBS operatives to clear rubbish, is on hold due to the coronavirus restrictions.

#### **7. Water Supply:**

The water supply has been switched back on at both meters in April.

#### **8. Marketing:**

The Sarisbury 'Show on the Green' in June 2020 at which WWAA had arranged a display stand has been cancelled for 2020 due to the coronavirus restrictions as has the Warsash Plant Sale in May.

#### **9. Record keeping:**

It was hoped that Sarisbury managers would undertake training in the new software 'Sharepoint' on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. However, this has been postponed '*sine die*' until restrictions are lifted.

#### **10. Rodents**

We are experiencing an unwelcome and dramatic increase in the rat population in certain areas of the allotment. Numerous rats are reportedly running across plots whilst holders are working on them. The nests are under sheds and in compost heaps. Successful breeding is probably due to the warm and wet winter and spring temperatures.

As this is an allotment problem not affecting neighbouring properties, three black box traps with poison are being purchased from our 'pest control' budget to combat the problem.

**Robin Green and David Whitlock**

### **Hunts Pond Road:**

Even with the social distancing rule, plot holders are making a great effort to ensure plots are being worked.

There are some plot holders who have underlying health issues and are doing what they can with some help from family. All in all, it's great to see plots being worked.

We have 20 on the waiting list and 10 vacant plots. Martin has successfully let a plot using the social distancing rule. Payment was made via BACS, with the tenancy paperwork to be done at a later date. Both Alastair and I think we should be doing the same before it's too late in the season and vacant plots become very overgrown which would give the site managers a lot of work to keep clear.

### **Keith, Alastair & Martin**

### **Warsash Road:**

I hope the tenants who are in shielded lock down will be able to join us again soon.

Warsash has 2 vacant plots and it is hoped to show them to the 2 people on the waiting list as soon it can be done safely.

All the debris from the hedge renovation has now been burnt by a very well organised, responsible tenant, using a vacant plot

Although I am not doing formal inspections, I am concerned that there are a few unworked plots. I will now be contacting the tenants to find out their plans.

A neighbour has replaced his boarded fence with a flimsy wood and wire one. As this is not deer-proof we plan to erect an additional barrier. We have the correct wire mesh but need to spend about £100 on wooden posts.

### **Gill Rock**

### **Lodge Road:**

A good number of allotment holders have been on site and tended their plots. One allotment holder has advised that he will be giving up his plot and I will meet one of the three people on the waiting list to re-let once my lockdown period is over.

### **Sandra Milam.**

**Date of Next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**