

Whitehill Allotment Society 2022 AGM Minutes

Cambridge United Supporters Club Hall
March 21st 7.30pm – 9.30pm

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS :

- 2021 AGM minutes
- Treasurer's Report - Financial Summary
- Unification of 1943 and 2020 By-Laws

Members in attendance:

J. Murray, G. de Boer, A. Osborne, A. de Burgh, K. Lavers, R. Dunn, L. McNeur, L. King, J. Bridges, S. Rouse, R. Henry, L. Larson, A. Reva, M. Pont, J. Freeman, B. Dobon.

Apologies: R. Preston, E. Njenje, N. Lofts, R. King

Paper ballots: 1

Online ballots: 3

Nomination and approval of AGM Chair (James Freeman) and AGM Minute-Taker (Begoña Dobon) - Approved

Approval of 2021 AGM Minutes - Approved

Treasurer's Report - Approved

Rue Preston has offered his apologies for not being able to attend the AGM.
From AGM 2021: Thank you gift for Rue on recognition for longstanding contribution.

Approval of financial accounts - Approved

Elfleda Site Secretary's Update - Begoña Dobon

All plots are rented at Elfleda. Social area planned for site next to the shop (where the polytunnel used to be).

Committee actions assigned at AGM 2021:

- new policies on abusive behaviour, a complaints procedure and bonfires have been published on the website.
- Committee has started a logbook of incidents/complaints.
- Combination lock fitted to pedestrian gate.

Skip with soil improver will come on April (*exact date to be confirmed*): to be filled with non-compostable and non-recyclable materials. Scrap metal to be placed in a pile beside the skip, for separate collection.

Peverel Site Secretary's Update - Anna Reva

All plots are rented at Peveral site.
Incident of flytipping reported.
Request of funds to repair notice board.

Election of Chair:
Nomination James Freeman
Elected

Election of Treasurer:
Nomination Kirsten Lavers
Elected

Election of Committee Members
Nominations: Anna Reva, Begoña Dobon, Diane Walsh, Edward Njenje, James Freeman, Jon Bridges, June Hyde, Kelly Anstee, Kirsten Lavers, Nathalie Lofts, Ruth Dunn, Ryan King.

All elected

FIVE MINUTE COMFORT BREAK

Any Other Business:

1. Approval of Unification of 1943 and 2020 By-Laws - Approved

By-laws are those rules relating to the general management of the Whitehill allotments (as distinct from the Society Constitution and the lease between WAS and the Council).

Discussion:

Question related to point 8.1 of the by-laws: the eviction procedure after failing to pay rent is not mentioned in the by-laws. What does it mean “legally demanded”?

“8.2 A plot is deemed vacant 6 weeks after failing to pay the rent whether legally demanded or not.”

The Committee has to send a formal letter to the member asking that they vacate their plot due to failing to pay the rent.

Committee action: Eviction process to be explained and published on the website.

Proposal: keep a record of when new by-laws are added (by year of AGM). Approved.

2. New by-law proposal - Banning of glyphosate - Approved

(1 vote against)

Floor opened to members for feedback and proposals

3. Proposal related to point 16.1 of the by-laws:

Remove the restriction on raspberry bushes area. Change text from:

“16.1 Blackberry and raspberry bushes are allowed only if properly maintained and contained within no more than 10% of the total plot area.”

To:

“16.1 Blackberry and raspberry bushes are allowed only if properly maintained and contained.”

Approved

4. Proposal related to point 19.3 of the by-laws:

Remove gravel for the forbidden material. Change text from:

“19.3 No rubbish is to be taken to or deposited on site. Specifically, no waste material, refuse, debris, spoil, carpets, tyres, trolleys, asbestos, gravel or rubbish is to be brought or kept on site for disposal.”

To:

“19.3 No rubbish is to be taken to or deposited on site. Specifically, no waste material, refuse, debris, spoil, carpets, tyres, trolleys, asbestos or rubbish is to be brought or kept on site for disposal.”

Approved (1 vote against)

5. Complaint about communal bins at Elfleda site

Bins are collected on Friday from the curb at Elfleda Road. They have been left there during the weekends on several occasions.

Committee action: Label the bins with “WHAS Allotment” and remind all members to help bring them inside the allotment site after bin collection (also to the member on shop duty on Saturday).

6. Complaint about bonfires at Elfleda site

Report of smoky bonfire disturbing the neighbours.

Question: When is an appropriate time to make a bonfire?

Members should liaise with neighbours and give them notice prior to the bonfire. Refer to the “how to make a bonfire” procedure: use dry material (if material is not dry enough, submit request to Committee for use of the communal green bins) and do not set fires on windy days.

Committee action: Bonfire complaints would be dealt the same as any other breach of the tenancy agreement.

7. Complaint about security at Elfleda site

Tools were stolen from a shed in December 2021. Reported to the police by the member concerned.

Suggestion to install dummy CCTV on the shop building.

CCTV not a feasible option; site is too large to monitor.

Committee took action at the time to reinforce a damaged section of the fence along the southern boundary, where access to the site was being gained. Members advised not to store valuable items on site. No further fires / break-ins reported since.

8. Question related to point 15.8 of the by-laws:

Does rule 15.8 apply to pruning hedges that grow outside the fence?

“15.8 No tenant shall, without the written consent of the Association, cut or prune any tree (except fruit trees).”

This rule does not apply to trees or bushes that are planted outside the fence but which are growing over the fence into an allotment plot. These can be pruned accordingly to contain them and maintain the fence.

9. Question related to point 17 of the by-laws:

“17. Sheds, greenhouses, polytunnels, wells and water-butts”

It is possible to install fruit cages over fruit trees? What is the size limit? Potentially you could

cover all trees in a plot using one big cage.

Committee action: Ask J. Parrot about size limits for this type of structure.

Closing and Thanks