

15th April 2023

AGM Hummersknott Gardeners' Association

1. Apologies for absence

Issy Crocker

Emma Skyers

Rodger Colley

Paul Wood

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Cross paths - work in progress

New Cabin built

3. Chairman's report

Council eventually resolved damage to Car park, fence and gate.

Having had to involve MP Peter Gibson.

A boundary fence erected by council along cemetery side, a hedge has been planted along side which should in time provide more privacy.

Lee Bowman and Susan Jones resigned from the committee, thank you for all your hard work

Thanks to all involved and donated to apple day

Thanks for hard work removing barbed wire and making sure any thorny brambles are not on fences adjoining paths or tracks making it safer for us all. We will continue to address this on our inspections

We had complaints last year about members receiving letters about their plots post inspections, there is a lot of volunteer time that goes into these and no malice intended in them. We are going to try meeting people individually where we can to raise issues this year. Inspections aim to prevent plots becoming overgrown and offputting to new members should that be necessary and identify problem areas.

Thanks to the cabin builders

Thanks to the tap replacer

Thanks to those cutting back trees and growth threatening our boundary fences

Fires - complaints from neighbouring houses and nursing home. Our rules state we wont be a nuisance

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Addressing concerns about wood and branches pruned and falling into plots we will form a wood store, and for weeds there will be two locations labelled. A wood chipper will then be hired periodically. A map will denote them on the news letter.

Reminder not to bring things on site, eg problem of desk draws and garden furniture among other items dumped outside cabin and water butts being filled with rubbish. We have no central rubbish removal and need to be responsible for our own removal.

4. Treasurer's report

Query insurance price rise, confirmed we shopped round

Hut total 2.5 - 3 thousand

Donation to St Teresa from Events

Rents same this year

Grants applied for

Cdcf funding suggested from floor

Please minimise water use to keep cost down

5. Secretary's report

I've enjoyed getting to know a lot more of you although I still struggle putting names to faces, it's been great to see you supporting our community at the coffee mornings.

I've continued to keep track of all inspection notes and keeping on top of correspondence in a timely fashion which has greatly helped the site look better.

Thank you very much for all your work making the plots compliant with the rules

I enjoyed working with many of you in trying to solve some of our problems, especially Jolene.

I have worked with Issy to take the seed swap into it's second year. I've been instrumental in providing graphics for events such as seed swaps and even managed to integrate an apple picking day with help from our community and Darlington Association Refugees with our apple day. This not only gave refugees an insight into our apple culture and us theirs but reduced the number of windfalls also reducing food for rats.

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I've been keeping the website up to date, there is now a google calendar so you can see what we are doing and any changes to the diary.

6. Letting Report

Omitted. Later emailed.

7. Election of Officers:

Chairman: Malcolm Harding

Treasurer: David Noddings

Secretary: Vanessa Hilton

Committee: Robert Watson, Catherine Boggon, Alan Jones

Block vote original committee back on as Ken Haigh suggested.

Majority voted for.

Kev then put name forward for letting officer

Vote taken vote was close and a count was asked for as Malcolm refused to count and said he'd step down if they didn't accept his call that the Kevin hadn't had majority vote.

People were confusing lettings officer with inspections and compliance process and being very rude about how effective Robert Watson is in his role.

Malcolm Harding shouted at room defending Robert's effectiveness, noting that plots are 100% let

An allotmenteer said they hadn't got a response about a request about someone else's position on the waiting list, while they had had multiple replies from the secretary about GDPR compliance it wasn't the answer they had wanted. If someone wants to know where they are on the list they need to enquire themselves so we do not break our GDPR policy

Names put forward for the committee and voted in

Ronnie Wootten

John Howlet

Kevin Clarkson

8. AOB

Post Inspection the committee is aiming to contact plotter in person and chat about their plot as 1st point of contact rather than email.

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Poly tunnels: please ask people to more clearly identify plants etc better for inspection eg abuse of Don Moody tunnel.

Asked why we can't have more people on the committee - according to our constitution it is a maximum of 10 people.

New weed bays and wood to shred bay- a map to know locations

Rats. Do not use poison. Last year the committee voted against the rat man with dogs' continued work, information about using essential oils to deter them will be circulated. Please use traps responsibly.

Bonfire ban discussed, is it a legal right vs complaints from residents and effects on asthma committee has a right according to constitution to change rules- however the AGM gives you the right to ask to vote as a whole community on the issues

Barbeques are still allowed

6ft fence - row 3- ask to reduce improving sight line for traffic

Speeding - still an issue, we are asking you our community to police this

John, drainage - look at improvements, land drains from cemetery lane down, some pot holes in track where damaged. Ideas on how to address are welcomed. We could address as we do the side roads. - Where will water go - drain near new cabin.

Kendra - looking for helpers to grow on a tray of trees. Ultimately to be planted off site.

Some people signed agreements years ago - whilst rule changes were emailed the committee agreed to publish latest documents on the website and notice board.

Malcolm apologised for his outburst.