

Winchester New Allotment Holders Society Ltd (WNAHS)

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 16th July 2025

Present: Chris Pearce (Chair), Bob Borrill (Vice Chair), Mike Moore (Membership Secretary), Chris Moore (Treasurer), Nigel Dobbie (Edington Road), Maria Keniston (Park Road), John Ryder (Trussell Crescent), Michelle Ryder (Trussell Crescent), Chris Bullen (Stanmore sites), Charlotte Williams (Secretary), Nirina McCartney (Greenhill Road)

1. **Apologies** were received from Janet Haughton (Website) and Jo Townsend (Trading Shed)
2. **Introductions** - Manorma Ward was introduced as Deputy Membership Secretary. Her contact details are to be added to the list of Committee members, Convenors and Site Representatives.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** - the Minutes of the meeting, dated 16th April 2025, were approved
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting dated 16th April 2025**
 - a. **Greenhill Road embankment tree work:** Assessment of the trees originally planned for July/August by HM Prison. Follow-up outcome and request cutting back of the overgrown vegetation over the winter months.
 - b. **Newsletter:** There were a few problems in sending out the April Newsletter. To be reviewed with Gordon Associates. Agreed that, in future, the e-mail sent to all members would simply contain a link to the Newsletter on the WHNAS website. Need to ensure that the message is mobile-friendly.
 - c. **Path at Kingsley place:** Confirmed that the path has been re-laid and the issue resolved.
 - d. **Greenhill fence replacement:** Confirmed a couple of quotes were obtained and the fence replacement will occur w/c 21st July.
 - e. **Trading Shed - concrete base to facilitate deliveries:** to be resolved.

5. Reports:

Membership

- Proposal to sign an annual support agreement with Gordon Associates for our membership software was discussed and agreed.
- Thanks were due to Jim Parsons, an ex-Member, who had written the original membership software and maintained it over many years, but who had now decided to 'fully' retire from this role.
- Namesco (website services provider). Issue re the use of 'cookies' to be investigated.
- Revised waiting list to be circulated to all convenors. List to be provided in Excel format, clearly indicating applicants' first and second choice of site.

Treasurer

- Membership required with the National Allotment Society, calculated on a per-plot-holder basis. Total cost: £1,631 (466 plots at £3.50 each). Last year's cost £1,326 (442 plots at £3.00 each).

Publicity & Newsletter

- No updates

Trading Shed

- Additional help needed to unload pallets; current support insufficient. Communication currently sent via WhatsApp to request volunteers. Chris to speak to Janet and Jo about arranging more help.

Park Road:

- No issues

Eddington Road:

- In contact with a contractor to replace the fence posts on the eastern boundary adjacent to the stream. Aim for the end of September.
- Instance where a new plot holder already had a plot at another site. Agreed that all convenors need to be ask prospective plot holders whether this is the case.
- Confirmed that the lock on the main gate is broken and not functioning. Still awaiting repair. Follow-up action ongoing.

Stanmore sites:

- No issues

6. Site lease renewals

- New lease still awaited from Winchester City Council. Assurances have been given to us that there is no cause for concern and that the delay is simply caused by workload pressures within their legal department. New rent rate was due from 1st January, but payment continues to be made at the old rate due to the new lease not having been provided.
- As a sign of our good faith, agreed to contact WCC to offer payment of the new rent, pending receipt of the new lease.

7. Changes to the Constitution and Bye-laws

These have now been updated (termination period increases from 14 to 28 days and amended policy re ponds). The updated version will now be published on the website.

8. Planned site, Trading Shed and other improvements

- An ideation session will be held at the October meeting to discuss new ideas for future improvements. Action: All

9. AOB

- **Hosepipe ban:** Southern Water advises that hosepipes can be used on allotments if a watering can is not feasible. After much discussion, it was decided that we would implement a hosepipe ban on our allotments.

Note: The Chair summarised the discussion in an e-mail to the Committee after the meeting, ie

- a. The notice that we put up on our sites and our website needs to be a clear and unambiguous statement of our position
- b. Whilst noting Southern Water's words, watering cans can be used across all our sites. If any member is a Blue Badge Holder or is listed on Southern Water's Priority register, then we will obviously respect that.
- c. Water in the Winchester area is a scarce commodity. It is estimated that, in June, we could have used more than 1m litres of water across our 12 sites. This will be approx. 2.8x our usage in June 2022, which immediately preceded the last time that we had a hosepipe ban in August 2022.
- d. Water is now a very expensive commodity. With recent substantial price increases and increased usage, it is likely that our water bill in June alone equated to our total water cost for the whole of 2023/24.

Future dates:

Committee meeting dates (to be held at the Parish Room, St Pauls Church, Winchester, SO22 5AB)

- Wednesday, October 15th, 19:30-21:00