

Agenda for AGM of Cross Houses Allotment-holders Group 18-4-2026, 11am at the Chapel Community Centre

Present: Tim Jones, Ian James, Maggie Webster, Cameron Moffett, Mick Lee, Alfie Matthews, Denise Kirk, Jess Dunn, Gilly + Dave Biggs, Frank Sinaniama, Jamie Lowe, Pete Hayward

Apologies: Nick + Mary Lewis, Tina Aldridge, Jan Bridges, Joyce Sinandima, Caroline Savage, Keith Webster, Darren Curtis

1. Minutes of the two 2025 meetings accepted
2. New committee elected: Mick Lee – Chair, Jamie Lowe – Treasurer, Cameron Moffett – Secretary. Appreciative thanks were given to Ian James as he stood down after 10 very productive years on the committee.
3. Financial report and rents (CM) The bank balance is acceptable but took a hammering last year between the introduction of bank charges, a 24% increase to water charges plus a heatwave summer, resulting in rent increases for this year. Group funds stand at just over £500. The transition to online banking is now complete. The group funded the replacement of the external edging of three plots over the last financial year. CM asked plot-holders to be very careful about their use of water. Ian J organised the replacement of the two tap heads last year which will help. We need to do more water harvesting. CM said that she would be putting the hose reels out soon but that there are more of the very large plastic drums and these could be added to the far side so people over there didn't have to get the hose reels out so often.
4. Tenancies and waiting list (CM) These people left: Caroline Cartner, Andrew Middleton, Sorrel Poulton – CM apologised for confusion over timetabling of handover of Sorrell's plots. Len and Will Tunnell have gone down to sharing Len's plot. Ian has downsized and his plot has been subdivided. New plot-holders: Jamie Lowe, Jan Bridges, Frank & Joyce Sinandima, Mandy & Nick Shutt, Dave & Gilly Biggs, Plot 21 divided in two: Pete Hayward and Danny Stevens. One overrun plot under oak tree only one free, however people are viewing later today. Please mention the allotments to friends and neighbours as we need to have people on the waiting list.
5. Change to management of communal greenhouse which Mick L. will now oversee. Interested people should sign up on list in greenhouse. Limited numbers.
6. Updated rules and regulations document – no comments from those present but CM has additions: no livestock (chickens, bees); no ponds, structures must be safe/maintained, and no sheds, as they get let behind in an unsafe condition for the group to deal with when people go. CM intends to update risk assessments and to see if Berrington Parish Council will host our core docs on their website.
7. Maintenance/working parties: these were a huge success – thank you everyone who participated. Most of the damage to trees in top left corner caused by Storm Goretti January 8/9 has been dealt with. Arising from this,

CM plans to draft a document relating to a survey of the trees on site and remedial work on trees where needed, and take to Parish Council to request funding. CM suggests that maintenance working parties be just for winter months but there are general ongoing tasks people can dip in and out of the rest of the year: brambles behind communal greenhouse (THICK CLOTHES AND GLOVES ESSENTIAL), ivy top left corner, gradual burning of backlog of timber, prunings etc which CM will take forward for the time being. Alfie M asked for caution where burning might be too close to his plot. A skip is not a pressing need at the moment as people have kindly taken much of the old rubbish to dump themselves.

8. Social event/s this year? No summer event planned but we can do another November bonfire (but with simpler food). Details to be discuss at next meeting in October
9. Seed swap session.
10. Recording of voluntary hours (three working parties – 45 hours, CM 20 hrs, Nigel 4 hours)
11. AOB: Pete H has access to pallets, if anyone wants some; reminder of communal herb garden which is being developed – please use the herbs, and also the bay tree up at the top. We have a new blackboard in the shelter for notes to share as things come up. Discussion of a group-wide WhatsApp group but CM isn't ready for that yet – issues of Data Protection would make it a lot of work. CM asked to purchase unused donated electric shredder for £20 – agreed.
12. Next meeting October, date TBC

Cameron Moffett

20/4/26