

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.com
Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Potting Shed
On Wednesday 16th May 2018 at 7 pm
Chaired by: Ian Ricketts

Present: Ian Ricketts – Chair, Barbara Marjoram – Vice Chair, John Harding – Treasurer, Pat Richardson – Webmaster, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Ken Pearce – Plot Allocator. Dave Buchan – Allotments upkeep/Committee Member.
Apologies for absence from Diane Mawer, Craig Whelan

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 18th April 2018 were read and approved. Matters arising are covered below.

2. (a) Report from Chairman/Facebook – Ian Ricketts
Ian had received an invitation from the Town Council for several Committee Members to attend a briefing session on General Data Protection Regulations. Places are free. It will take place on Tuesday 3rd July at 2 pm in the Corn Exchange. John and Ann agreed to attend. Ian is to approach Craig to see if he can attend. Ian himself will possibly attend too. Ian to respond to Town Council. Ian said that Peter has acquired a lockable filing cabinet for keeping files safe and locked away. It was expected that G.D.P.Regulations will be part of the new Rental Agreements in September. The taps at Elizabeth Road still need to be done, plus some strimming. These will be done as soon as possible. A work day had been organized at Lamperds Field for Sunday 20th May, from 10 am to 1 pm, to erect rabbit fencing and posts. It is hoped that 10 to 15 people will be there to make the task easy. It is also hoped that there is time to clear out and re-plant the containers just inside the main gate. Ian will find out the judging day for the plots. On Tuesday 5th June, Ian and John met with the Town Council. **Action: Ian**

- (b) Report from Vice Chair/Seed Secretary – Barbara Marjoram
Barbara had nothing to report.

- (c) Report from Treasurer – John Harding
John reported that the bank balance stands at £1411.33 (assuming all outstanding cheques have been presented). Petty cash is £98.69. No bills have been received since the last meeting.

- (d) Report from the Plot Allocator – Ken Pearce
Lamperds Field now have 14 vacant plots. A walkabout had established that there are some 12plus plots which have not been touched. It was agreed that Dave, Ken and Ian would do a walkabout on Tuesday 29th May, during the usual work party morning, when yellow cards will be issued. **Action: Dave/Ken/Ian**

- (e) Report from Phil Williams, Elizabeth Road
Phil said that several allotments at Elizabeth Road are overgrown. Ian and Ken will view next Tuesday 23rd May. The emptying of dog bins is being forgotten. Town Council need to be informed. He said that people are fly tipping garden rubbish on the allotments. Ian to mention to Sybille – perhaps a notice could be erected. **Action: Phil/Ian**

- (f) Report from the Webmaster – Pat Richardson
Craig reported in his absence...."Only minor updates to the website in the last month. I'll prepare an email for GDPR to out, which will cover our newsletter and/or future email communications from the committee to members. This may warrant viability to council before we send. In conjunction, I will setup a system called MailChimp which will make life easier in future for managing subscriptions to our newsletters/email updates and help ensure compliance for parts of GDPR. I'll prepare handover for future sending of emails (no immediate action from you required). I'll aim to have a plan drawn up for the more significant changes so we can get on top of overall

improvements. I need to assess bringing the contact form to the new blandfordallotments@outlook.com address and share details for multiple person access. We're paid up for the year, I need to get the invoice to John for reimbursement."

Action: Craig/John

(g) Upkeep of allotments – Dave Buchan

Dave had been busy clearing vacant plots, mowing and strimming, along with other maintenance jobs.

(h) Report from Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

1. The sun shone on the coffee morning on Saturday 5th May. There were about 25 allotment holders present and Annabelle's talk provoked lively discussions.

The raffle was won by Craig!

Diary dates as follows:

Sunday 20th May - Work party to erect rabbit fencing 10 am to 1 pm
Free delicious cakes, coffee and tea. Please pop in.

COFFEE MORNINGS – FREE REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE:

Saturday 2nd June 11 am - Mike Holloway "Sensory Gardens"

Saturday 7th July 11 am - Malcolm Fowler "Making Mead"

Saturday 4th Aug. 11 am - Bring along your favourite Recipe for courgettes or beetroot, plus a taster dish.

Saturday 1st Sept. 11 am - A chance to meet your Committee, with the usual coffee morning refreshments and raffle. (Before the AGM takes place on Friday 28th September at 6.30 pm in the Corn Exchange.)

Saturday 6th Oct. 11 am - Vlad Gore "Apple Pressing and More" - Bring apples

Friday 28th Sept. at 6.30 pm - AGM

2. The Barbecue Date is fixed for Sunday 8th July at 2 pm. The barbecue itself is being renewed. Ann will put a list on the notice board, as last year, for people to put their names down and to tick foods to bring. It will be free of charge, with donations on the day towards the meats. **Action: Ann**

3. Scarecrows can be made and put up any time. Judging 1st September. See the notice board for "How to make a scarecrow" or the link

<https://www.diynetwork.com/how-to/make-and-decorate/crafts/making-a-scarecrow>

4. Craig and Phil need to submit their photos to Craig – **Action: Phil, Craig.**

(i) Report from Committee Member – Peter Brundish **Action: Peter**

Peter does not expect to bring in any more manure until the barbecue has taken place. In the meantime, the area will be cleared and strimmed in readiness. He had mended the rotavator wheel. Wheels on the wheel barrows also need to be attended to.

3. Any Other Business

John will do a sign for the gate, reminding people to shut it, and lock at the end of the day when everyone has gone. He will email to Ann, who will laminate it. **Ann/John**

It was reported that there are rats about on the allotments. A discussion ensued. Ian is to go to Bartletts for rat traps. Discussion is ongoing. **Action: Ian/Dave**

4. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 20th June 2018 at 7 pm.

5. The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

(Ann Edwards – 17th May 2018)