

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.com

**Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Store Room
On Wednesday 17th August 2016 at 7 pm.**

Chaired by Andy Dickinson

Present: Andy Dickinson – Treasurer, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Norman Moors – Estate Manager, Pat Richardson – Webmaster, Ian Ricketts – Seed Secretary, Dave Buchan – Upkeep of allotments, Diane Mawer – Plot Allocator, Ken Pearce - observer.

Apologies for absence: Amanda Bibby – Chairman, Dave McGaw - Plot Allocator, Maureen Cawley – Committee Member.

1. The meeting was opened at 7 pm by Andy, standing in for Amanda. The minutes were agreed and signed. It was noted that the AGM will be on the earlier date of Friday 16th September. Paragraph 12d which changes the tenant's right to remove crops up to the end of the February following the previous September termination, was questioned as to its exact meaning. Clarification of this is sought by the new Plot Allocators.
2. Update on plot register from Dave, Diane and introduction to Ken. There was a lengthy discussion amongst the committee on the subject. Details are given below in individual committee members' reports.
3. Updates

Treasurer: Andy Dickinson. Andy reported that the current balance was £816.56. Payments had been made for £30 for electricity, £129.19 for locks, gate, lights for Elizabeth Road, £70 for water butts etc. The accounts are healthy.

Estate Manager: Norman Morris. Norman said all is quiet now at Elizabeth Road. He had been called out regarding a bonfire at Elizabeth Road. Andy said that bonfires are banned completely there, and handed over several notices to be erected, to that effect. Norman said that lights had been left on in the shed, and that if the door is left open and a vehicle emits fumes into the building, then this sets off the fire alarm. Fresh notices are to be erected to try to avoid waste of electricity, and needlessly wasting Norman's time with false alarms. Also, fresh notices are to be made concerning locking of the main gate, in particular with the coming Steam Fair in mind.

Social Secretary: Ann Edwards. Ann reported that the coffee morning on August 6th had gone really well, when Mike Holloway had given his talk. The monthly gatherings are becoming increasingly popular. September

3rd will be the next one, when Andy will talk on "How to overwinter your plot". Copies of photos taken at the bbq are now on the website, which is looking full of interesting stuff. She hoped everyone would encourage people to use our website, as everything will now be on there.....
www.blandfordallotments.com In the meantime, she had emailed as many as possible concerning social events. It was agreed that there would be a last coffee morning on Saturday October 1st and she will endeavor to get a speaker. Regarding the AGM on Friday 16 September, Ann said she will serve refreshments of tea, coffee and cake, from 6 pm. The scarecrow competition judging is scheduled for Saturday September 10th. There appears to be only one scarecrow erected so far! Committee will encourage more. Judging for the biggest sunflower will be done by Ian and Ken week commencing 22nd August. There are sufficient entries for this. Best plot judging had been done and the winner will be contacted by Ian so that he may be present to receive the cup at the AGM. Ann thanked Pat for all her hard work keeping the website completely up to date.

Webmaster: Pat Richardson – www.blandfordallotments.com

Pat has succeeded in bringing the website completely up to date, including the latest photos of the barbecue and the making of the new water butt lids by Norman and Ian. She is still asking for Elizabeth Road photos and text, as a separate part can be made for them. People are also using the contact form. She needs to agree a procedure with Diane regarding enquiries for plots. Diane will respond to any enquiries passed on to her.

Community Action Day Leader: Diane Mawer

Diane said she was happy to take over the role of Plot Allocator from Dave McGaw, who wishes to relinquish the job, along with the aid of Ken Pearce. They had both worked hard to make sense of the plot numbers and owners, and were coming somewhere near to understanding the plot layout. It was agreed that a form should be left in the shed for people to fill in with all their details – Plot number, name, address, post code, telephone, email address, to help the committee get up to date information, and plot holders should be encouraged to put up a sign numbering their plot. Andy promised a large map of the allotments would be displayed in the shed. Diane wanted clarification of the change in the agreements by the Town Council, which now say that those giving up plots have to get off the plot completely by 30th September, and will not have the right to uplift crops to the end of February, as was the case in last year's agreement. It was requested that Ken Pearce should be co-opted on to the committee to partner with her in the role of Plot Allocator. Andy proposed, Pat seconded. Unanimously agreed. A photo was taken of Ken to be put on the website, as co-opted Plot Allocator.

Plot Allocator: Dave McGaw – Apologies for absence. He had intimated that he wished to step down from the role of Plot Allocator, but to remain on the committee. The committee was happy that Diane will take on his role along with Ken. Talks between the three are taking place.

Seed Secretary: Ian Ricketts – Ian reported that he will contact the winner of the best plot, to ensure he can attend the presentation of the cup at the AGM. Dave Miles will assist with the presentation. He confirmed that judging of scarecrows would be on Saturday 10th September. Also that he and Ken would judge the sunflowers week commencing 22nd August. Ian said he would look into appropriate certificates to be presented.

Upkeep of allotments: Dave Buchan – Dave had nothing to report.

Committee Member: Maureen Cawley – Apologies for absence. Maureen had said she wanted to resign from the committee due to other commitments. She sent her compliments to everyone. The committee understood her reasons, but were really sorry to lose her. Everyone thanked her for her services.

Chair: Amanda Bibby - Apologies for absence.

4. Yellow/Red card proposal (from Judith). On behalf of Amanda, Andy said that they thought it would be a good idea to serve the yellow card and red card letters, by stapling onto a stake in the middle of the allotment, so that it can be clearly seen. They had heard from an allotment holder that this had been successful in other places. The Town Council have a list of yellow card warnings to be served. The Committee thought this was an excellent idea and needs to be implemented straight away. It was also thought that a simple solution to unattended allotments would be to place weed suppressant material over it, with the staked warning in the middle, so that all can see the present position with the plot. There is material stored that can be used for this purpose.
5. Complaint to the Town Council: Andy produced notices for Elizabeth Road which ban bonfires in total. These were handed to Norman to be erected. The complaint of a nuisance bonfire had come from a resident in Philip Road.
6. AGM – overview and plan: Andy gave everyone an agenda for the AGM. This was agreed, with the addition of 9. Seed update – Insert “Dave Miles will present cup for best plot”, 11. Insert “Ken Pearce and Dave Buchan” under re-election of committee members,
7. The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.
Date of AGM is Friday 16th September starting at 7 pm, open at 6 pm.
Date of next Committee meeting is Wednesday 19th October at 7 pm in the Allotment Shed.