

**Blandford Allotment Society**  
**Minutes of meeting held at Lamperds Field Potting Shed**

**Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 7pm**

**Chaired by: Ian Ricketts**

**Present: Ian Ricketts – Chair, Barbara Marjoram - Vice Chair, Diane Mawer – Plot Allocator, Ken Pearce – Plot Allocator, Dave Buchan – Allotment upkeep/Committee Member, Phil Williams – Elizabeth Road, John Harding – Treasurer, Peter Brunish – Committee Member**

Apologies: Pat Richardson, Ann Edwards, Craig Whelan

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting** dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were read and approved. Matter arising covered below.

2. **Reports from:**

a. Chairman: Ian Ricketts

The communication from Blandford Council relating to Data protection was discussed – **Action:** Ian to contact the Town Council to identify the issues that require discussing. John and Craig were happy to meet with them to highlight these and to identify a way forward.

There will be a work day, at Lamperds Fields, on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 10.00 to replace the rabbit fencing that was moved due to the felling of the trees.

Water is back on at both Lamperds Fields and Elizabeth Road.

**Action:** Ian and John will be attending a yearly meeting with the Town Council on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 10.00, to discuss next year's rents.

The proposed move of the allotments is still under discussion and the Committee have no further news regarding the time scale or the actual ramifications to the site and the allotment holders.

**Action: Ian and Barbara**

b. Deputy Chairman/Seed Sec.: Barbara Marjoram

Nil to report

c. Treasurer: John Harding

The current bank balance is £1612.10 and petty cash is £98.69. Since my last report I have paid bills for

1) Tractor insurance: £263.70. I did contact other insurers to try to get a better quote. The NAS insurers were not able to help and suggested I try the NFU. They would not insure the tractor unless we had our business insurance through them. As it was, the insurance was actually some £30 cheaper than last year.

2) Electricity: £44.26 - some 25% more than this time last year which I assume is due to more use of heaters this year. Always check the lights are off when you leave the shed.

3) Water for Lamperds Field: £64.66 (end of October to beginning of April)....seems a bit steep since there should have been no use on the Allotments...though one day I did come along and the hot tap was running in the kitchen!!!.

4)Website: £92.85.....£130 last year

The last 3 cheques have not yet been cleared, and are not included in the current balance figure.

The petty cash has reduced by £30 as we have had a new delivery of manure.

We have purchased timber to repair the water butt covers on Lamperds Field and this cost has been reimbursed from the Council ring fence fund.

d. Plot Allocators: Diane Mawer/Ken Pearce

At the end of May an inspection of all plots will be carried out and yellow cards issued as appropriate.

Lamperds Field has 11 empty plots – of various sizes

Elizabeth Road - need 3 new taps **Action Ian**

- 2 empty plots and 3 non payers

e. Elizabeth Road: Phil Williams

There has been a problem with the 'dog' bins not being emptied – but this has now been included in the council rota for emptying.

Vacant plots will be strimmed. **Action Ian and Phil**

f. Webmasters: Pat Richardson/Craig Whelan

Webmaster report for March/April from Craig, as follows

General updates to the site as dictated by events occurring. Have revisited the plan drawn up during November when Pat and I started working together; digest as follows (the detail would be exhaustive for meeting minutes):

To be completed by end of May 2018

- Update content to include Elizabeth Road specifically
- Update contact form to address multiple individuals if possible rather than directly to Pat
  - Contact Us button on main page
- Update Events to reflect remainder of 2018
- To be completed by end of June 2018
  
- Introduce feature pages for content by seasoned allotmenters

To be completed by September 2018

- Prepare site for move to new hosting platform for 2019

g. Upkeep of Allotments: Dave Buchan

For the re-erection of the rabbit fence, at Lamperds Fields, new posts need purchasing **Action**

h. Social Secretary: Ann Edwards

The coffee morning on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April was very successful. About 22 people attended and enjoyed the talk by Mike Holloway and Robin on Fuchsias. As there was not enough time to talk about sensory gardens Mike Holloway will be giving the talk at the coffee morning on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. John Harding won the raffle. Next coffee morning is on 5<sup>th</sup> May when Annabelle will talk on "Tips for Beginner Allotment Holders". Please see our website for a list of coffee mornings and speakers.

Will remaining committee members Peter, Phil and Craig send their photos to the webmaster for putting on the website please?

i. Committee Member: Peter Brundish

Nil to report

**3. Any other business:**

This years BBQ will now take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 2pm.

**4. Date of Next Meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 7pm, Lamperds Field, Potting Shed**