

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.com

Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Store Room
On Thursday 23rd February 2017 at 7 pm
Chaired by Amanda Bibby

Present: Amanda Bibby – Chair, Andy Dickinson – Treasurer, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Ian Ricketts – Seed Secretary, Dave Buchan – Upkeep of allotments, Diane Mawer – Plot Allocator, Ken Pearce – Plot Allocator.

Apologies for absence: Pat Richardson – Webmaster, Norman Moors – Estate Manager

1. The meeting was opened at 7 pm by Amanda. The minutes of 10th December 2016 were read and approved. The major part of this meeting was to discuss the relocation of the allotments, at the request of the Town Council, and to report to them by 27th February.

2. Matters Arising

The vacant plots had been identified, and labelled. There were 17 in all (quarter and half plots). The yellow warning signs had been erected on neglected and unworked plots, and these had proved to be very effective. The yellow warning letters from the Town Council have been effective at raising awareness of the poor conditions of some plots. Red warning letters are ready for distribution by the Council when plot holders are identified by the Committee. The committee have identified plots on Elizabeth Road who are at risk of a warning letter.

Plot numbers still need to be erected.

The Elizabeth Road sign has been erected. Work is ongoing at the Elizabeth road site to measure and number plots, and to establish plot holders details.

A resident complaint regarding fencing had been successfully dealt with, with a mutually amicable result. Plot 32 is allocated for burning rubbish, only by the Committee. A sign is to be erected saying something like... "Bonfire for garden cuttings. NO RUBBLE. Lighting not permitted by allotment holders. Committee will burn from time to time".

A complaint has been received about parking on roads. People must not obstruct roads. This contravenes their rental agreement. Offenders will be spoken to.

Concerns shared regarding a plot holder who has had roses removed from their plot and their request to not display yellow warning signs on itself. Following a discussion it was agreed that plots would continue to be identified with yellow signs.

3. Finance

Andy had nothing new to report.

4. Seed Secretary

Ian had received the seed potatoes and distributed them. He only had one order remaining, which will be delivered when the allotment holder returns from abroad. There had been one order which had been delivered incomplete but this has been resolved after communication with Kings Seeds.

5. Social Secretary

Ann gave the Saturday 11 am Coffee Morning dates for 2017: March 4th, April 1st, May 6th, June 3rd, July 1st, August 5th, September 2nd. There are speakers for March, April, May and June, so far. March will be for discussing the Town Council plan, April – Barbara Marjoram “Lady allotmenters are no April Fools! Get started on your plot!”, May – Malcolm Fowler “General talk, to include Bee Keeping”, June – Mike Holloway, Woodhouse Gardens “Fuschias from Wimborne to Chelsea”. The Community Action Days were also listed as Sundays, 10 am to 12 pm, January 8th, February 12th, March 19th, April 23rd. The March 19th Action Day to be advertised as “please help to cut pea sticks, and have a bundle for yourself”.

6. FORMAL RESPONSE TO TOWN COUNCIL, TO BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2017

The committee recognise the importance of providing vital school places to the Blandford Community. We all wish to support Blandford to grow and provide access to appropriate facilities for all residents.

- 6.1. On the plan it is unclear whether the existing shed is now to be retained along with the existing lockable stores. It has already been agreed with the Town council that a larger shed housing enough lock ups for all allotment holders would be provided. Clarification required.
- 6.2. The plan before the Committee does not give details of any infrastructure, for example, paths, access points, and so on. The major concern is the entrance from the main Pimperne road, which is to be shared with the school. It is suggested the road to the allotments should branch off to the right, once inside from the main entrance, as a separate road. Particular care needs to be taken when planning the entrance at the busy main road, as congestion already exists with traffic piling up from Pimperne and also from the Blandford roundabout. The present plan is too vague for us to comment on in detail.
- 6.3. The Committee reiterated that the Town Council had already requested conditions from the landowner’s agents when they agreed to the relocation of the allotments in February 2016(reference email dated 12/2/16 from Linda Scott-Giles), and

these conditions had been agreed with the Allotment Committee. They listed the following:

- 6.3.1. For the allotments to be located on one side and not to be split.
- 6.3.2. Confirmation that the standard of soil will be appropriate for allotment plots (Councillors recalling that it was not suitable when Lamperd's Field was introduced.)
- 6.3.3. That facilities are either like for like or improved and the number of locker units is increased in line with the number of plots that are currently on site (we now have half and quarter plots due to demand, so more lockers are required).
- 6.3.4. That ample parking is provided.
- 6.3.5. That the land where the allotments is relocated is on a freehold basis instead of leasehold.
- 6.3.6. A slightly larger compound area for storage.
- 6.3.7. Consideration of timing is key for crop removal.
- 6.3.8. Details needed of buffer zone between the allotments and school.
- 6.3.9. Fencing to separate the allotments from the road passing through the school.
- 6.4. The Committee feels it is important to have an in depth testing of the soil quality carried out as soon as possible.
- 6.5. It had already been agreed that there would be a stone removing machine worked over the land, and that manuring and soil improvement would have taken place before allotment holders move.
- 6.6. The location and number of water butts needs to be agreed.
- 6.7. Committee asks for disabled facilities, e.g. roads and paths suitable for wheel chairs, plus a small number of plots with raised beds suitable for the disabled.
- 6.8. It would be useful for allotment holders to be able to access the site via the yellow bridge.
- 6.9. There are question marks concerning the landscaping and boundaries. For example, could the upper boundary be planted similar to the existing lower boundary? And, who would be responsible for maintenance of which boundaries? The Chairman has been approached in the past to plant bushes which are moth friendly for endangered local species. Could this facility be included?
- 6.10. The Committee asks for a time frame.
- 6.11. The Committee understands that the allocation of the new plots will take place before building works commence, and that security measures will already be in place before the move.

7. The meeting closed at 8 pm.

8. Date of next meeting is Thursday 6 April 2017 in the store room at 7 pm.

Ann Edwards 24.2.2017

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