

## Blandford Allotment Society

[www.blandfordallotments.com](http://www.blandfordallotments.com)

### Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Store Room

On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 at 7 pm

Chaired by: Ian Ricketts

*Present: Ian Ricketts – Chair, Barbara Marjoram – Vice Chair, John Harding – Treasurer, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Diane Mawer – Plot Allocator, Ken Pearce – Plot Allocator, Peter Brundish – Committee Member, Craig Whelan – Webmaster/Committee Member, Phil Williams – Elizabeth Road Representative. Apologies for absence from Pat Richardson and Dave Buchan.*

#### **Action**

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were read and approved. Matters arising are all covered below.

2. (a) Report from Chairman/Facebook – Ian Ricketts

Ian said that everyone had received their seeds and potatoes this year, except for one plot holder. He had passed the role over to the Vice Chair, Barbara Marjoram for next year. He said that the closed Facebook group now has 50 members. The perimeter trees had been felled which had created far more light. The adjoining property was delighted to be free of showers of pine needles. Wood chip from the felling had been made available to allotment holders.

- (b) Report from Vice Chair/Seed Secretary – Barbara Marjoram

Barbara had nothing to report.

- (c) Report from Treasurer – John Harding

**John**

John reported that the balance in the bank as at present (assuming recently paid in cheques are not returned) is £1807.11 compared with approx. £2003 at this time last year. Petty cash is £57.77. Since our last meeting he paid out cheques for Water at Elizabeth Road - £219.48 and for Electric for the LF shed - £55.10; both of these were not out of line with previous payments. He had negotiated with Southern electric a fixed term for the next 3 years which is just slightly better than current rates being paid. He had not got anywhere with chasing up the DVLA over the tractor log book, and they had advised him that the best way forward is to apply for a new log book, which will cost £25. He suggested that he will name himself as the registered keeper unless anyone has any objection. The Committee agreed he should go ahead.

Through Sybille, the last of the non payers had been chased up and he had only managed to recoup 2 more. Ken had more details on this.

He has paid the National Allotment Society and they have sent a membership certificate back to him without any request for a list of members. John said that if they in future do insist on a list of paid up members, Sybille has modified the paragraph that she will insert re disclosure of information to indicate that we may need to release names and addresses to the NAS should they insist. He had not as yet spoken to Lloyds bank regarding payment on line.

- (d) Report from the Plot Allocators – Ken Pearce and Diane Mawer

Elizabeth Road have three empty plots – a quarter plot 18B, a half plot 5B and a half plot 14B. There were 3 non payers who have been sent letters similar to Lamperds Field, below. Lamperds Field has 10 empty plots. 4 non payers, all of whom had been sent letters 3 weeks ago asking for payment in two weeks, or the tenancy would be terminated. Similar letters have been sent to the non payers at Elizabeth Road.

- (e) Report from Phil Williams, Elizabeth Road

**Work Party**

Phil reported that all is quiet. Some manure had been delivered to the site. Ian said that the buddleia tree needs to be cut down. It was agreed that the Work Party would take care of this on the next Work Party day, which is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

(f) Report from the Webmaster – Craig Whelan

**Craig**

Craig said he had done some work on the website and had looked into the structure. The cost of ongoing subscription fees would be between £75 and £115. He is looking to take the £75 option, review use and would expect to move away from Wix in 12 to 18 months. He had registered a dedicated email address ([blandfordallotments@outlook.com](mailto:blandfordallotments@outlook.com)). In future, data will come to him, details for the address to be shared with the Chair in due course. Craig will be working on the site on 9<sup>th</sup> February. He is putting details of events on the site for the year, plus minutes of meetings, etc. He hopes the Committee will encourage allotment holders to use the website [www.blandfordallotments.com](http://www.blandfordallotments.com)

(g) Upkeep of allotments – Dave Buchan

Ian spoke on behalf of Dave. The trees had been felled and manure delivered.

(h) Report from Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

**Ann**

Ann said the first coffee morning of the year is Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 11 am. As usual, free refreshments. Annette Baxter will help to serve as Ann and Dave will lead the discussion on Dahlias. Ian will do a raffle on the day. 50p a ticket with the prize of a bag of multi-purpose compost or 5 barrow loads of manure.

Dates for 2018

Saturday Coffee Mornings at 11 am – Subjects and speakers to follow are: 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Annual Barbecue – Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Ian is looking into updating the barbecue equipment. Scarecrow Competition – Judging on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Allotment holders to be encouraged to make and erect as soon as they like.

It was decided to consider in October 2018 holding meetings in the British Legion in Blandford for a couple of the coldest winter months.

Ann mentioned that on the website there is a page showing Committee Members and that five committee members still needed to email their photo to Craig – **John, Barbara, Peter, Phil and Craig himself.**

(i) Report from Committee Member – Peter Brundish

**Peter**

Peter is looking into additional suppliers for manure and is hopeful that he can organise this. Ian commented that an immediate delivery would be welcomed.

3. Any Other Business

**Ian/Craig**

(a) Ian is looking into the ring fenced fund for the fence which had to be taken down in order that the perimeter trees could be felled. He will also ask about water tank tops. He asked Craig to mention on the website that there are available plots both at Lamperds Field and Elizabeth Road. Ian asked the Committee their opinion on putting a short piece in the Forum Focus local paper. Everyone agreed it would be a good idea, and that Ian should invite the editor to come to the allotments in order to do a little piece of editorial and to encourage people to put their names on the list for an allotment.

(b) Diane questioned the security of the lock on the gate. It has been the same number for a good many years, so there are people who have the combination but do not have an allotment now. A solution was not found.

4. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

5. The meeting closed at 8 p.m.