

**Blandford Allotment Society**  
**www.blandfordallotments.com**  
**Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Potting Shed**  
**On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 at 7 pm**  
**Chaired by: Ian Ricketts**

*Present: Ian Ricketts – Chair, Barbara Marjoram – Vice Chair/Seed Secretary, John Harding – Treasurer, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary, Peter Brundish – Committee Member, Dave Buchan – Committee Member, Ken Pearce and Diane Mawer – Plot Allocators, Phil Williams – Elizabeth Road.*

*Apologies for absence from Virginia Barnard - Webmaster*

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were read and approved.

2. REPORTS

(a) Report from Chairman – Ian Ricketts

Ian reported that there was a very good turnout at the AGM. Some 50 allotment holders attended. Forum Focus had done a good write up, encouraging people to take on plots. The work party on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October was a success, and we did all we set out to do. Pallets were used to make an enclosure for the manure. Dead flowers had been taken out of the tubs and bulbs planted in their place. Several plots had also been cleared. There will be a major work party on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (for pea and bean stick cutting). Ian and Phil to review if a work party is required at Elizabeth Road. Bags of compost had been purchased and are now ready in the shed. The water has been turned off at both sites. Two plots are done and now ready.

**Action: Everyone**

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

Barbara had received the orders from plot holders for their seeds. Total receipts were £851 (£5 in excess of orders). We have to send £738.43 to Kings Seeds. This therefore gives us over £100 for Blandford Allotment Society funds. Barbara was thanked for her efforts.

(c) Report from Treasurer – John Harding

This year so far we have received £3427.28 in rents which is about £400 in total less than the full year last year. Looking at the rents still to be paid we do have approx. £500 outstanding. Additionally I have banked manure receipts. Since my last report I have paid an electricity bill for £54.05 (considerably more than last year as we have been running a 'fridge through the hot summer), a water bill of £1117.17 for Lamperd's field (about £600 more than last year) and £1149.17 to the Town Council for rents (only about £15 increase on last year).

This will leave the balance in the bank at £2548.87 and petty cash held at £67.57.

The next large bill that is due will be the public liability and general insurance, and Elizabeth Road's water bill. Together they will be around £700

I have a note of the non-payers for passing to Ian to chase up as soon as possible.

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

Ken reported that at Lamperds Field there are 12 vacant plots and 10 non payers. At Elizabeth Road there are 5 vacant plots and 6 non payers. Non payers will be chased up by telephone.

(e) Report from Phil Williams, Elizabeth Road

Phil reported that the gatepost on plot 11 was rotten and needed to be replaced. Also, both posts have rotted on Plot 7. He said if we can supply the posts then he can get them erected.

Action: Ian/Phil

(f) Report from the Webmaster – Virginia Barnard

Virginia had submitted her report via the Social Sec. as follows:

Just to let you know I have had a meeting with Craig and he has passed all the information on to me. We talked through several issues. He was concerned about the new GDPC rules. This is not a worry for me since I attended a course at the University of East Anglia a few months ago so I am up to speed on that. My first impression is that the website is perfectly serviceable but needs some updating and perhaps a greater social media presence. I would probably want to move away from WIX to find a cheaper alternative. When I have done some research I will put a proposal to the committee for consideration, hopefully by the next meeting.

Action: Virginia

(g) Upkeep of allotments – Dave Buchan

Dave had strimmed back and cleared two full plots at Lamperd's Field during the recent work party. A load of dung had been delivered and more will be delivered on the following Tuesday. He had spoken to the owner of the council van parked in front of the dung heap, preventing access, and this had been resolved.

(h) Report from Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

Ann reported that there are only two coffee mornings remaining for 2018. One on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, with Malcolm giving his talk on making and tasting mead, and one on 1<sup>st</sup> December which will be mulled wine and Christmas nibbles. Also this year, on 1<sup>st</sup> December, there will be a grand raffle. Hopefully members can donate good prizes for this.

(i) Report from Committee Member – Peter Brundish

Peter had telephoned the National Allotment Society, of which we are a member, for advice. He had been involved in the clearing of the two plots, and also will be doing a third one soon. He said that the burning plot could do with being rotavated. He had looked into the possibility of a carnival float next year.

Action: Peter

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion on the problem of rats.

Barbara said it might be a good idea to take a table in the Corn Exchange when suitable events take place. Committee agreed it was a good idea.

Action Ian

It was suggested that an editorial should be submitted to the Blackmore Vale, to try to fill vacant plots.

Action Ann

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 7 pm in the Potting Shed at Lamperd's Field**

5. The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.