

Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Store Room
On Thursday 6th April 2017 at 7 pm
Chaired by Amanda Bibby

Present: Amanda Bibby – Chair, Andy Dickinson – Treasurer, Pat Richardson – Webmaster, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Ian Ricketts – Seed Secretary, Diane Mawer – Plot Allocator, Ken Pearce – Plot Allocator, Norman Moors – Estate Manager

Apologies for absence: Dave Buchan

1. The meeting was opened at 7 pm by Amanda. The minutes of 23rd February 2017 were read and approved.

2. Finance

Andy said that the finances are healthy. In fact, were about the same as this time last year. The website had been paid - £130, the tractor insurance has been paid - £300, the bill for lighting (electricity) had been paid - £35. The biggest bill of £1122 to the Town Council for rents for Lamperds Field and Elizabeth Road was about to be paid. Andy will ask the Town Council about the ring-fenced fund, as we need small equipment items. Dave and Norman are training people on the tractor and the committee is invited to take the tractor training, provided they are over 25 and have a clean driving licence. It was mentioned that there might be allotment holders who would like to take the training too.

Andy said we needed another signatory for cheques. Ann was asked, and agreed to be the extra signatory. Andy to organize.

3. Seed Secretary

Ian will do the sunflower competition this year, and sunflower seeds will be available from the end of April. Conditions of entry, the same as last year, with judging anticipated to be in August (to be confirmed).

4. Report from Diane and Ken regarding plot vacancies and matters arising

There are some 16 vacant plots, varying in size from a quarter to a full plot. They reported that allotment holders are now busy working their plots. They would like a sign put up asking for plot holders to contact them giving all their details which would be really helpful for the future. There was one remaining challenge. A particular allotment had received a yellow and red card. They had requested a meeting. This was to take place on site to discuss the problems, and try to find a way to resolve the issues. It was agreed that if the allotment is brought up to standard by September, then they will be able to renew the rental. If not, then renewal will be refused and the red card warning will take effect. The

meeting between the allotment holder and the committee was scheduled to take place at the plot on the morning of Sunday 9th April.

5. Social Secretary

Ann reported that the coffee mornings had been very popular. The latest one on April 1st had been well attended. Barbara Marjoram had talked on "Lady allotmenters are no April Fools! Get started on your plot!" Many thanks to her for a very interesting talk.

Diary Dates:

Next coffee morning dates Saturdays at 11 am:

**May 6th – Malcolm Fowler "General talk, to include Bee Keeping",
June 3rd – Mike Holloway, Woodhouse Gardens "Fuschias from Wimborne to Chelsea".**

July 1st – "Come meet your Committee!"

August 5th – Speaker to be decided

September 2nd. Pat Richardson – "Charles Dowding's "No dig approach to growing."

Next Community Action Day Sunday at 10 am:

Sunday May 7th – Attending to allotment paths.

Annual Barbecue:

Sunday June 25th at 2 pm

6. Site updates from Norman, Ian and Ken

They said a falling down fruit cage had now been removed. They said that any ponds (water containers) should have covers, from a safety point of view.

7. Community Action Day

Was Sunday April 23rd, but changed to Sunday May 7th at 10 am.

8. Webmaster Report

Pat said it would be good to have more text and photos to put on the site. It is becoming successful now, in that there had been some 760 "hits".

9. Equipment and keys

Andy is to organize the cutting of three more keys to the store, for the committee, in order that equipment can be accessed.

10. AOB

Pat raised the subject of Blandford Foodbank. She said that sometimes allotment holders had a glut of vegetables and fruit, and it might be good to donate this to the foodbank. She is to speak to Gale De Pinto about this.

11. The meeting closed at 7.55 pm. Date of next meeting is Thursday 11th May at 7 pm in the store room.

(Ann Edwards. 9/4/17.email:ann.musicblondie@gmail.com)