

Blandford Allotment Society

Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Store Room On Wednesday 6th July 2016 at 7 pm.

Chaired by Amanda Bibby

Present: Amanda Bibby - Chairman, Andy Dickinson – Treasurer, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Norman Moors – Estate Manager, Pat Richardson – Webmaster, Ian Ricketts – Seed Secretary, Dave Buchan – Upkeep of allotments.

Absent: Diane Mawer – Community Action Days, Dave McGaw - Plot Allocator, Maureen Cawley – Committee Member.

1. The meeting was opened at 7 pm by Amanda. The minutes were agreed and signed.
2. AGM – The Corn Exchange is booked for the AGM, for 16th September. It is booked from 5.30 pm to 10 pm. The meeting starts at 7 pm. Ann will provide coffee, tea and biscuits from 6 pm.
3. Treasurer – Andy reported that the bbq cost some £85. Receipts were in the region of £30. 35 had attended the bbq. 2 locks and 2 lights had been purchased for a total cost of £73. Norman needed to be reimbursed £72 for the water butt boards. Total balance £881.81, all of which the committee was happy about. Andy shared receipts for meat and sought committee approval to be reimbursed.
4. Estate Manager – Norman had fixed the toilets. He reported that there had been no further damage at Elizabeth Road. It was suggested that someone at Elizabeth Road could take photos for the website. Norman said he had a person in mind and would approach them. The second motion sensor light had been attended to at Elizabeth Road. Amanda said that the board for Elizabeth Road was in hand with the Town Council, who said it will be funded out of the ring fence fund and Norman will contact Jon at the council re: fitting. Norman agreed to re-furbish the first aid box, in response to the request in Amanda's box.
5. Social Secretary: The latest coffee morning on July 2nd had been well attended and Norman and Ian had made the necessary water butt lids. A huge thanks to them both for doing this work. The next one is August 6th when Mike Holloway will give a talk. He is the Town Council's gardener for the Woodhouse Gardens. It was agreed to have the last one on September 3rd, when Andy will do a talk on "How to over-winter your plot". Ann had prepared posters for the August 6th Coffee Morning for inside the shed, on the gate and at Elizabeth Road allotments, which were given to Norman to erect. She reported that the BBQ on 26th June had been really enjoyable. Some 35 people attended, the food was varied and delicious, and the meats were also delicious. Even some people from Elizabeth Road had attended. Thanks to everyone who helped put up the marquee and gazebo, and to all the committee's work. Amanda was asked to pass the photos to Pat for the website.
6. Webmaster – Pat is trying to keep the website up to date. The visits started at 40, and now total 239, so she is pleased that the website is being viewed. She is asking for photos to be submitted, in particular, Elizabeth Road, as a separate part can be made for them. People are also using the contact form. She hopes

that when the appropriate people receive these enquiries, they respond straight away.

7. Community Action Day Leader – absent.
8. Plot Allocator - absent
9. Seed Secretary – Ian reported that he had carried out the judging of best plots, at both Lamperds' Field and Elizabeth Road. The result will be made known at the AGM on 16th September, when cups will be presented by Dave Miles.
10. Upkeep of allotments – Dave Buchan had nothing to report.
11. Committee Member – Maureen Cawley was not present.
12. Chair – Amanda reported on the Town Council meeting which she and Andy and Ann attended, on Thursday 9th June 2016.
 - (a) The rent had been discussed and reviewed by both the town Council and the Allotment Society, and it was agreed to increase plot rents to £35.50 per full allotment at 250 sq metre and pro rata for smaller allotments This is an increase of only 50p per annum. Consideration will be given to freezing rents just before the changeover in view of the inconvenience involved.
 - (b) The rent for Elizabeth Road – it was agreed to increase it from 15p per square metre to 17p per square metre from September 2016.
 - (c) There were several people needing to have yellow card warnings. The list will be forwarded to the Town Council who will prepare letters to send on behalf of the AMC.
 - (d) The Town Council agreed to alter Clause 3.2.3 of the management Committee Agreement to read "The Society will not be liable to pay compensation and the tenant has the right to remove crops at the time of giving up their plot." They also agreed to alter Clause C.5.3 of the Tenancy Agreement to read "The Society will not be liable to pay compensation and the tenant has the right to remove crops at the time of giving up their plot." Fire training will be offered to a volunteer from the AMC when Health and Safety training is next carried out by the Town Council.
 - (e) Cllr Lindsay suggested that DDA compliant raised beds would be ideal to be incorporated into the new site. The AMC would research this and the Town Council would look at the information gathered.
 - (f) The Town Council was pleased to receive spread sheets from Dave McGaw, and were also very positive towards the needs of Allotment Society plot holders regarding the change of venue in the future.
 - (g) The lockable notice for Elizabeth Road is now in hand. Funds will be used from the ring fenced fund.
 - (h) It was agreed that a contact form should be organized to accompany the Tenancy Agreements being sent out to plot holders. Once returned this would help to bring up to date plot numbers, plot holders and their details – particularly email addresses.
 - (i) At the same Town Council meeting, the subject of the valuable work of Norman Moors was discussed. It was agreed unanimously to award him a one off honorarium in recognition of his input. This will be presented to him at the AGM.
 - (j) Amanda reported that she had received a letter of complaint from an allotment holder. Because the allotment had not been worked for many months and neighbors to the plot were complaining weed killer had been applied to protect adjoining allotments from weed pollution. A yellow card

letter was in the pipeline to this particular allotment holder but there had been an error and the letter was not sent.

13. The meeting closed at 8pm.
14. Date of next meeting is Wednesday 17th August at 7 p.m.

(Ann Edwards 6 July 16)