

Blandford Allotment Society

www.blandfordallotments.com

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

On Thursday 7th December 2017 at 7 pm

Chaired by: Ian Ricketts

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

Action

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 26th October were read and approved.
2. Matters Arising: There were several matters arising, all of which are covered below.

3. (a) Report from Chairman/Seed Sec./Facebook – Ian Ricketts

Ian said he was pleased that Barbara Marjoram had agreed to take over the role of Seed Secretary. He also said that Facebook is proving very popular and there are about 48 members now.

**Ian
Barbara**

- (b) Report from Vice Chair – Barbara Marjoram

Barbara proposed that the timescale for giving up plots should be made clear. At one time, a person was allowed to remove produce up to the following February. However, it was pointed out that a previous Committee Meeting had minuted that produce had to be removed at the point of giving up the plot. There was a short discussion regarding the timescale for removing sheds/greenhouses/compost bins etc. At the moment this is by mutual agreement between the Plot Allocators and the retiring plot holder.

**Ken
Diane**

- (c) Report from Treasurer – John Harding

Andy had passed over the accounts completely to John, and Lloyds Bank had re-opened. Andy is still happy to help if needed. At 24th November, the balance was £2937. This time last year, the balance was £4000. However, Andy had not paid the rent, which John has now done. So the rent is now paid. Regarding the tractor, the registration document is missing. John is communicating with the DVLA to try to get a replacement. The site insurance is due. John wanted to make the Committee aware, and to have it minuted, that a requisite of the renewal of the insurance is that each Committee member does not have a criminal record. If they were to be found to have a criminal record, then the insurance would be invalid. The National Allotment Society had asked for the total number of allotment holders and their details.

John

The Committee agreed that John should submit the number, only, of plot holders at both Lamperds Field and Elizabeth Road – some 107 members at Lamperds Field and 23 members at Elizabeth Road, to date. He suggested that we take a look at the National Allotment Society website, www.nsalg.org.uk. He said the water bill was £600

John

for Lamperds Field, which represented using a huge amount of water! Ian and other members of the Committee said that a major leak had been fixed during the year, and that they would check for leaks once the water was turned back on and also take a meter reading at that time. John also requested of the Committee and the Town Council that when rents are raised next September that they are rounded up or down to make accounting easier, for example £13.88 – round up to £14.00 etc. Ian to approach Town Council with this suggestion. John said that he is now in a position to account for manure money paid and received.

**Work
Party**

Ian

(d) Report from Elizabeth Road – Phil Williams

New washers had been put on the taps. Byron Quayle had been on site along with Lacey-Clark and had taken photos. Hedges belonging to Dorset County Council had been trimmed by them. They didn't cut the hedge back enough, so they have been trimmed again, since, back to the edge. Where the hedge is overgrown on plot 12, it was found that this is the responsibility of the adjoining householder. The County Council has adopted the bins and they will be emptied twice a week. The meeting on 30th October between Phil and the work party had taken place. Phil would like to see a delivery of manure delivered to Elizabeth Road.

**Work
Party**

(e) Report from Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

Ann reported that on Saturday November 4th Annabelle Valentine had given a talk, at the coffee morning, on Simple Home Brewing, which was well received. The Christmas coffee Morning on Saturday December 2nd, where mulled wine and Christmas nibbles were served, had proved to be a huge success. This had been paid for out of donations received at monthly coffee mornings. The first coffee morning of 2018 will be on Saturday February 3rd at 11 a.m. It is hoped to get a speaker by then to do a short talk on "Dahlias". Ann will work on the diary for 2018 and present to the next Committee meeting at the end of January. The Chairman asked that the March Coffee Morning should be advertised as "Cut pea sticks and get your free bundle".

Ann

(f) Report from the Webmaster – Pat Richardson

Pat said that she was pleased that Craig was now on board to take over some responsibility for the site. He is looking into getting the cost of the site reduced and also inputting more information. They will update the Committee Members' details and Committee Meeting minutes. Photos are always needed.

**Pat
Craig**

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

Ken said there are three vacant plots at Elizabeth Road. There were 8 empty plots at Lamperds Field and 12 non-payers. The community plot rent cheque had been received and passed to the Treasurer. Ian said he had a list of non-payers and he is working on the list.

**Diane
Ken
Ian**

(h) Report from Upkeep of Allotments – Dave Buchan

Dave Buchan said the Town Council had met with him and Ian on site concerning the trees, and it was confirmed that the Council is responsible for them. There are some 12 trees which are dead, and due for removal. He was also involved in the delivery of manure on the allotments and said he will look into a delivery to Elizabeth Road along with other members of the Committee. Date and time to be arranged with Phil Williams.

Town Council

Work Party

Phil

- (i) Peter Brundish confirmed that he had organized the delivery of 8 tons of manure to Lamperds Field and expects to be able to make a similar delivery in a week or so. Craig Whelan had nothing to report.

Peter

4. Any Other Business

- (a) Ian said that the problem of the perimeter tall trees had been sorted. The council said they take full responsibility for them and will fell dead trees.

Town Council

- (b) Ian still needs to find out what the ring fenced fund with the Council is earmarked for, and how much is in the fund.

Ian

- (c) It was agreed that four mobile telephone numbers would be displayed in sight of the main gate, for people to contact in case of an emergency or needing help. These would be Ian, Ken, Peter and Craig's numbers.

Ian

- (d) Ian was pleased that we have sourced and received the manure. He is asking that people put the money in an envelope, clearly labelled with their name and plot number, amount and number of barrow loads. A barrow load is £1.00.

- (e) Ian suggested that we do a monthly raffle for say, 5 barrow loads of manure, where each ticket is bought at the Coffee Morning on the first Saturday of the month, for £1 each. The Committee agreed it was a good idea, and Ian will be in charge of it.

Ian

- (f) Craig put forward the idea that next year Allotment Holders should be given the option of paying their rent by electronic bank transfer. Discussion confirmed that this is a good idea to pursue, with the proviso that people who want to pay by cheque or cash can still do so. John will approach Lloyds Bank regarding potential costs etc. and report back.

John

5. Date of Next meeting

Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 7 pm in Lamperd's Field Potting Shed.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

(Ann Edwards – 11.12.17)