

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.com

Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Store Room
On Saturday 10th December 2016 at 10 a.m.
Chaired by Amanda Bibby

Present: Amanda Bibby – Chair, Andy Dickinson – Treasurer, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Norman Moors – Estate Manager, Ian Ricketts – Seed Secretary, Dave Buchan – Upkeep of allotments, Diane Mawer – Plot Allocator, Ken Pearce – Plot Allocator.

Apologies for absence: Pat Richardson - Webmaster

1. The meeting was opened at 10 a.m. by Amanda. The minutes of 19th October were agreed and signed. The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss and list vacant plots, possible vacant plots, and talk about signs.
2. Vacant Plots
After a long discussion, it was agreed that there are 10 vacant plots, with a further 10 or so becoming vacant at the beginning of 2017. Advertisements need to be put out for these. For example - email Forum Focus - Amanda to put up an ad. for staff at her school - An advert in the library and on Tesco's board - Homebase board - Barletts. It was agreed contacts should be listed as via the website, www.blandfordallotments.com, or Amanda's email address/phone number, and Diane and Ken's email address. Ken is to give Norman the already vacant plot numbers. It was also pointed out that in future all must pay the small insurance premium in their rent, without exception. Next year's rental renewal letter should say that this is compulsory.
Action: Town Council/Amanda
3. Messy Plots
There are some tarpaulins in store, which can be used to cover messy allotments. It was agreed that there would be a work day to stake signs on allotments declaring them vacant and at the same time, to stake yellow card signs on those allotments overgrown and not being tended. Plus, the committee decided unanimously, that those plots which are not paid for now that the 40 days is up, will be taken back and re-let and suitably staked as vacant and available for rent. Those not being worked and overgrown will have yellow cards staked in the middle.

There will be a working party of Committee Members walking around the allotments on 8th January at 10 a.m., with the purpose of checking all

allotments and erecting relevant signs. A notice to this effect is to be put in the glass case at the gate.

4. Plot Numbering

All plots are to be numbered. There are some plot number plates in stock which can be used for this, but if there are not enough, the Council are to be approached to supply the remainder. Action: Andy/Ian/Ken/Amanda

5. Elizabeth Road

The sign for Elizabeth Road is ready, and just needs to be erected.

Action – Norman.

A printed list of plot holders and numbers was requested by Andy, from Norman, for the Elizabeth Road allotments so that a check can be made on rental payments. Action: Andy/Ken/Diane/Norman.

6. Finance

Andy pointed out that the water bill for Elizabeth Road outstripped the total amount budget. He will monitor carefully the budget for Elizabeth Road. A notice to allotment holders to be very careful with their use of water needs to be erected, and warning if the use is excessive, rents might have to go up. Action: Andy/Norman. Norman/Diane/Ken/Andy to map out the Elizabeth Road allotments. There was a discussion about overhanging trees, as a resident had complained of overhanging into their garden. Diane is investigating. It was suggested that perhaps in 2017, there might be a new rule for new plot holders, saying that all must attend the AGM in September which would make life much easier.

7. The meeting closed at 9.50 a.m. in time for the Committee to welcome allotment holders to Christmas mulled wine at 11 a.m.

8. Date of next meeting is Sunday 8th January at 10 am, followed by the working party walk around.