

Blandford Allotment Society

Minutes of meeting held at the Lampard's Field Store Room On Thursday 14th January 2016 at 7 p.m.

Chaired by Amanda Bibby

Present: Amanda Bibby - Chairman, Andy Dickinson – Treasurer, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Pat Richardson - Webmaster, Norman Morris – Estate Manager, Diane Mawer – Community Action Days, David McGaw – Plot Allocator, Ian Ricketts – Seed Secretary, Dave Buchan – Upkeep of allotments, Maureen Cawley – Committee Member.

The meeting was opened at 7 pm by Amanda.

1. Proposed Calendar Dates for 2016
 - a. Competitions/social events Ann Edwards
 - i. Tallest sunflower – Ian Ricketts and Dave McGaw will be in charge of this competition and for agreeing the judges. Suggested time of planting seeds is in the Spring. Judging day will be on **Sunday 26th June**, on the day of the Annual barbecue.
 - ii. Annual barbecue – Date for the barbecue is fixed for **Sunday 26th June at 2 pm**. All the committee will be involved in this event. Discussion of roles and actions required at next meeting (in the shed).
 - iii. Best plots – Ian and Dave to be responsible for organising this and for securing the judges. Judging should possibly be in June. Details to follow.
 - iv. Scarecrow competition – It was agreed that scarecrows should be in position by **1st August**, and judging should take place on Saturday **10th September**. Judges and time to be agreed.
 - v. After consideration, Ann thought that the heaviest potato competition should not take place this year, as there are too many other commitments.
 - vi. Monthly coffee mornings – These were agreed as follows:
Saturday 5th March, Saturday 2nd April, Saturday 7th May, Saturday 4th June, Saturday 2nd July. All at 11 am -12 pm. There are 3 suggested mentors to be present at these to share coffee, and answer any questions. Ann is to approach them. She also has two volunteers to make and serve coffee. She will approach them.
 - vii. Outside table for surplus plants not discussed. Discuss at next meeting.
 - b. MOT for tractor etc. – Andy Dickinson
Norman and Andy to explore whether we need MOTs for tractor/s.
 - c. Bills which can be anticipated – Andy Dickinson
We were due to pay the Allotment Society fees of £375 and tractor insurance of £372. Cash balance stands at £1396.61 before paying these. Balance is down on last year. Andy mentioned that the water bill is extremely high.
 - d. Seed Order – Ian Ricketts
Ian said that the catalogues are available around September each year and that we should try to get our orders in by 1st October in order to receive maximum discount.
 - e. Community Action Days – Diane Mawer
The committee discussed the state of the allotments, and it was agreed to have a site walk to identify what needs to be done on **Sunday 14th February at 2 pm**. In particular, the state of paths, and path blocking needs to be checked. Letters to be sent to those who permanently obstruct paths as this prevents site maintenance and lawn mowing. Concerns raised about objects being propped against the perimeter

- fence causing damage.
- f. Meetings, including the AGM – Amanda Bibby
Next Committee meetings, **Sunday 14th February at 2 pm, Monday 14th March at 7 pm.**
AGM Friday 30th September at 6.30 pm – Amanda to book the hall with the Council.
 - g. Equipment Maintenance – Norman Morris/Dave Buchan
Norman reported that there had been a water leak and he and Dave have now turned off the water, and are meeting to trace the leak. The Treasurer is to contact the water board to request a refund.
 - h. Dave McGaw is to give Ann a list of allotment holders with their email addresses and telephone numbers, so that she can contact them on a one to one basis to let them know of the social events. Pat said this is particularly important, as the web site is not up and running yet.
2. Updates from Committee Members
Most are covered above in 1.
Dave McGaw – Regarding section 4 of the minutes of the last meeting, he has followed this up and is awaiting a response. Regarding plot allocations, we have a healthy waiting list, and plots should be available by the end of March, when he expects to have resolved these issues.
Pat Richardson, Webmaster – She had found it very challenging to set up a new website, and asked if anyone knew of a person who is experienced in web building to contact her. Dave thinks he knows someone suitable and will get further information for her. Pat will continue working on it.
3. Photos of Committee Members – Andy Dickinson
Andy needs a photo of each committee member for the shed wall. He took some at the meeting. Members to make sure he has a photo of them please.
 4. Audit of Allotment Society Assets for the Town Council
This has not been done yet. It is suggested that around the next AGM might be an appropriate time. Amanda has told the Town Council details of the new committee. She has raised two drafts of warning letters and referred these to the council for approval.
 5. AOB
There was no other business.
 6. Next meeting is on **Sunday 14th February at 2 pm**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

(Ann Edwards)