

Blandford Allotment Society

Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Store Room On Monday 14th March 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, Diane Mawer – Community Action Days, Ian Ricketts – Seed Secretary, Dave Buchan – Upkeep of allotments, Maureen Cawley – Committee Member.

Apologies for absence: Pat Richardson, Dave McGaw

1. The meeting was opened at 7 pm by Amanda. The minutes were agreed and signed.
2. Matters Arising: The Chairman said that Forum Focus had been in touch asking for a statement from us regarding the relocation of the allotments. It was thought that we do not want to get involved with the press. Forum Focus already have a copy of our February minutes, as do the Town Council.
3. Updates:
 - a. Treasurer: Andy said that further income had been received from payments for plots, which should have been received last September. The current balance is £1126. From that there needs to be paid £55 for the website and £350 for the tractor insurance. He had contacted Dick Good to change over the contact name on the policy from his to Andy's. Andy said he would make enquiries to see if a cheaper insurance can be found. The general state of finances is comfortable. It is suggested we make a claim to the Water Board regarding the water leak. Andy also mentioned that there is a ring-fenced fund for the maintenance of the allotments store.
 - b. Estate Manager: Nothing to report.
 - c. Social Secretary: The coffee morning in March and talk had proved to be very popular, with some 14 people attending. Pat was thanked for an excellent talk on seeds, nourishing and planting, and it was said that the refreshments of coffee and cake were excellent. Big thanks to all. The next coffee morning is on April 2nd, when Andy Dickinson has agreed to give the talk on "How to make your scarecrow". Amanda said she would produce an A3 poster drawing everyone's attention to it.
 - d. Webmaster: Apologies for absence. Everyone thought the website is excellent and running very well, and the Chairman said she was already receiving enquiries via the site. Very many thanks to Pat for her hard work.
 - e. Community Action Day Leader: Diane was concerned about the maintenance of access to plots. It was agreed that we should raise a community event and put out a call for people to help with trimming of the site hedges, immediately after the coffee morning on April 2nd. Each person to bring gloves and clipping tools and loppers. Pat to be approached by Diane to ensure the event is promoted on the website.
 - f. Plot Allocator: Apologies for absence. Dave will email us if he has any problems.
 - g. Seed Secretary: Ian had put the sunflower seeds and entry forms in the barn. Most of the seeds had gone, and people were putting in their forms. Judging will be in the first week of September.
 - h. Upkeep of Allotments: Dave said he had attended to the water leak along

with Norman, and they had solved it. He is concerned about the bottom hedges being in need of a trim. This to take the form of a community event on April 2nd as detailed above at 3e.

i. Committee Member: Nothing to report.

4. Public Meeting about the proposed build on the allotment site:

Amanda Bibby:

Amanda had been in contact with the Town Council, and the reallocation of the allotments will be started first, expected to start in 3 years time. Our understanding is that the building will start to be rolled out in 5 years time, so we anticipate that we will be fairly stable for the next 3 years. The authorities are amenable to all our concerns regarding the soil, moving of greenhouses, sheds, plants etc. and they have been given a list of our concerns. We have already had 2 public consultations which were well attended by our members and there will also be a referendum for Blandford residents in the future. Amanda is reassured that the Council members want a smooth transition for the allotment holders. Following this news, there was a lively discussion, when it was confirmed that we have in mind an expert to report on the state of our present allotment soil. Compensation will also be discussed at the appropriate time in the future, and will also include transfer of large plants like apple trees etc.

We have been invited to attend the Annual Town Council meeting at the beginning of June. Four from the committee will hopefully attend – Amanda, Chairman, Andy, Treasurer, Dave, Plot Allocator and Ann, Social Secretary.

5. AOB. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8 pm.

6. Date of next meeting is Friday 15 April at 6 pm.

(Ann Edwards)