

**Blandford Allotment Society**  
[www.blandfordallotments.com](http://www.blandfordallotments.com)  
**Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Store Room**  
**On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7 pm**  
**Chaired by: Ian Ricketts**

*Present: Ian Ricketts – Chair, Barbara Marjoram – Vice Chair, Pat Richardson – Webmaster, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Diane Mawer – Plot Allocator, Ken Pearce – Plot Allocator. Dave Buchan – Allotments upkeep/Committee Member.*

*Apologies for absence from John Harding, Craig Whelan, Peter Brundish, Phil Williams.*

**Action**

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 were read and approved. Matters arising are covered below.

2. (a) Report from Chairman/Facebook – Ian Ricketts

He said that the closed Facebook group now has 50 members. The Town Council has agreed that the cost of boards for the water butts and replacing the rabbit fencing where the trees were felled, should be paid out of the ring fenced fund. Send the invoice to them.

Ian, Ken and Barbara had attended a meeting with the Town Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February concerning relocation of the allotments, at which the Committee presented proposed plans for allotment holders and heard of the Town Council plans to date. At the Chairman's request, the Town Council had written to every allotment holder, shortly after the meeting, outlining the present position regarding the (now) likely move. He suggested we get in touch with the Allotment Society nearer the time for guidance regarding the move. He also stressed that anyone wishing to erect a greenhouse or shed needs to put in a request. At the present time, approval is unlikely to be granted, due to the move. At the appropriate time, the Committee will explore the possibility of a Health and Safety policy, perhaps with the aid of the National Allotment Society.

Nicci Brown had put an article in the March issue of Forum Focus, along with a photograph, based on her visit to the Coffee Morning on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ian said that the Committee was delighted to receive an email from an allotment holder thanking everyone for their hard work and commitment.

- (b) Report from Vice Chair/Seed Secretary – Barbara Marjoram

Barbara had taken notes at the Town Council meeting and has shared these with the Committee.

- (c) Report from Treasurer – John Harding

John's report submitted, in his absence.

"The current bank balance remains at £1807.11. The cash in hand is £128.69. Cheques to be paid in £42.09. There have been no payments since the last meeting, but the tractor insurance is due at the end of this month, this is likely to be around £400 if we use the same insurer. I will check with the NGS to see if their insurers can give a better quote.

**Action John**

I have now sorted the log book issue with the tractor, ordering a new log book and changing the keepers name to myself. I have now taxed the tractor....although this was at zero rate because of the agriculture /limited use classification. This classification also means that although our tractor is well over 3 years old it does not need an MOT, and we can use it on the highway between two sites so long as the distance is no greater than 1.5 kilometres, and I believe the distance between Lamperd's Field and Elizabeth Road is just within this distance."

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

Elizabeth Road position is the same as last month. They have three empty plots – a quarter plot 18B, a half plot 5B and a half plot 14B. Now only 1 non payer. Lamperds Field now has 10 empty plots. There has been 2 new starters. There is a waiting list which Ken has tried to get in touch with, with little success.

(e) Report from Phil Williams, Elizabeth Road

No report.

(f) Report from the Webmaster – Craig Whelan

**Craig**

Craig's report submitted in his absence...."There have been minor updates to the site in the last month - keeping on top of general updates.

I'll aim to have a plan drawn up for the more significant changes so we can get on top of overall improvements. I need to assess bringing the contact form to the new blandfordallotments@outlook.com address and share details for multiple person access. We're paid up for the year, I need to get the invoice to John for reimbursement."

(g) Upkeep of allotments – Dave Buchan

Dave had cut the pea sticks on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. These are now on sale for £3 for a bunch of pea sticks and £1 for a bunch of bean sticks. Dave will service the tractor. It is anticipated that the water will be turned back on, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April, at the Coffee Morning.

(h) Report from Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

**Ann**

1. Our coffee morning on 3<sup>rd</sup> March had to be cancelled because of snow and ice, so we were unable to cut the pea sticks on that day. Our next coffee morning is on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 11 a.m. Mike Holloway is talking on Fuchsias and Sensory Gardens. As usual, we will have freshly baked cake, tea and coffee, caffeinated and de-caff! Plus Ian's raffle for an amount of manure or compost – 50p a ticket.

The diary for 2018 is as follows:

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> April –  | Mike Holloway "Fuchsias and Sensory Gardens"                                  |
| Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> May –    | Annabelle Valentine "Tips for Beginner Allotmenters"                          |
| Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June –   | <b>Volunteer needed</b>   |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> July –   | <b>Volunteer needed</b>   |
| Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> August – | Bring along your favourite Recipe for courgettes or beetroots, plus a taster. |

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. – Come and meet your Committee before the AGM.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Vlad Gore "Apple Pressing and More" Bring apples

2. The Barbecue Date is fixed for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 2 pm
3. Scarecrow competition 2018. Scarecrows can be made and put up any time from now on. Judging 1<sup>st</sup> September. See the notice board for "How to make a scarecrow"
4. Will remaining Committee Members please pass their photo to Craig or myself, for the website? – **Action: Peter, Phil, Craig.**

(i) Report from Committee Member – Peter Brundish

Peter expects to bring in another delivery of manure on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Allotment holders are reminded to please, put their money into the box in the shed, when taking manure. Cost is £1 per barrow load.

3. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

4. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7 pm.
5. The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

*(Ann Edwards – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018)*