

Blandford Allotment Society

Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Store Room On Friday 15th April 2016 at 6 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

Apologies for absence: Pat Richardson, Dave McGaw, Maureen Cawley

1. The meeting was opened at 6 pm by Amanda. The minutes were agreed and signed.
2. Updates:
 - a. Treasurer: Andy said that two bills had been paid. £357.41 for tractor insurance and £34.96 for electricity. The account is £677.86 in credit.
 - b. Estate Manager: Norman reported that there had been serious vandalism on the Elizabeth Road allotments. Some 40 full water barrels had been upended, amongst other things. He had approached the Council, and they will put up a sign saying "private allotments etc." Norman is suggesting surveillance cameras. He has been offered help in this respect by an allotment holder. Andy will do laminated signs warning of CCTV cameras on the allotments.
 - c. Social Secretary: The coffee morning in April had been even better attended than the March one, and was enjoyed by allotment holders. The talk by Andy about making your scarecrow was also very well received. It's hoped that this year's entries will be up on previous years as more people are now enthusiastic about taking part. Andy was thanked for his excellent talk. Big thanks to Pat for refreshments. The next coffee morning is on May 7th, when Andy Dickinson will give a talk on "How to make raised beds". Amanda said she would produce large posters drawing everyone's attention to it. Diane Mawer has volunteered to do the talk on 4th June on the subject of "Pest control".
 - d. Webmaster: Apologies for absence. It was said that there are a number of items waiting for Pat's return, to be put on the website.
 - e. Community Action Day Leader: Diane reported that the Community Action Day, tagged on to the 2nd April Coffee Morning was absolutely brilliant, and suggested that an appeal is put out for a similar half hour to follow on from the 7th May Coffee

Morning, in order to help with plot clearance. It was agreed.
Diane agreed to put a poster up.

- f. Plot Allocator: Apologies for absence. Ann had received an email from Dave to be read out. It said that more plots had been allocated – 5 at Lamperd’s Field and one at Elizabeth Road. He had just heard that someone is giving up, which will release two plots. He will seek to allocate these to those on the waiting list.
 - g. Seed Secretary: Ian had put the sunflower seeds and entry forms in the barn and all the seeds had gone (2 full packets). He is hopeful of a good number of entries.
 - h. Upkeep of Allotments: Dave thanked everyone for helping with the hedges. As he is not enjoying good health at the moment he cannot do any work, so he is hopeful that members will attend the community day on 7th May to give a hand with upkeep.
 - i. Committee Member: Apologies for absence.
 - a. AOB. a. Ann mentioned the barbecue scheduled for 26th June and said we need to start thinking about the arrangements for this.
 - b. Norman said we need to approach Bob, the builder, to ask about water barrels.
3. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.45 pm.
4. Date of next meeting is Wednesday 25 May at 7 pm.

(Ann Edwards 18.4.16)