

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.com
Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Potting Shed
On Wednesday 1st August 2018 at 7 pm
Chaired by: Ian Ricketts

Present: Ian Ricketts – Chair, Barbara Marjoram – Vice Chair, John Harding – Treasurer, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Dave Buchan – Committee Member, Phil Williams – Elizabeth Road.

Apologies for absence from Pat Richardson, Craig Whelan, Dave Buchan, Ken Pearce, Diane Mawer, Peter Brundish

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 20th June 2018 were read and approved. The list of assets had been done by Ian and John. Ian and Phil had met up at Elizabeth Road. It was agreed that Ian, Dave and Phil would meet at Elizabeth Road to do some strimming of allotments on Wednesday 8th August in the afternoon.

2. REPORTS

(a) Report from Chairman/Facebook – Ian Ricketts

Ian said that the barbecue had been a great success, and about 50 people had attended on a very hot day. Thanks to the marquee and gazebo giving shade, we all enjoyed it. The raffle draw made about £65, which was put towards the costs.

Kings seed catalogues have arrived and they will be put out for plot holders to take, within the next 2-3 weeks, that is, at the end of August.

New annual agreements have been signed ready to be sent out by the Town Council. This will be around 17th August. Four people gave up their plots, 2 have cleared their plots, and 3 plot holders were uncontactable.

Plot judging had been done on 9th July. Winners will be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

Pat had decided not to stand for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. She has worked closely with Craig for him to take over the webmaster's job. Ian extended a big thank you to her for all she has done in setting up the website, and her continuous work since.

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

Barbara had nothing to report.

(c) Report from Treasurer – John Harding

After paying an electric bill of £35.30 in July, and the costs for the new water trough having been repaid from the ring fenced fund the Bank Balance now stands at £1342.55. Petty cash £46.57

BBQ costs were £108 14 which included raffle prizes costing £16.50. Receipts from the raffle were £65.

Ian and I have taken a look at the water usage to date in Lamperd's field. So far after approx. 3 months we have used 371 cubic metres (around 81,620 gallons) which equates to £834. Last year for the whole 6 month period the usage was 268 cubic metres....£614. Usage may well now slow down as summer crops come to an end but we could well be looking at a bill of around £1500 just for Lamperd's field, never mind Elizabeth road. This may not in itself be too crippling, as last year we actually paid around about £1300 for water because of no payments in year 16/17. However our

major concern is allotment take up next year after having such a difficult year this year. If our income is seriously affected things could get difficult.

I have emailed the Town Council to update them on this situation and seek some assurance that they would be able to support us should we be financially embarrassed. Billie has intimated that it is a little early to panic as yet but funds may be available from the ring fenced fund if needed.

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

No report.

(e) Report from Phil Williams, Elizabeth Road

Phil said that he was still concerned about the excessive use of water at Elizabeth Road. He feels he is not being listened to by the plot holders and says that the problem is being met with resistance. There was a discussion as to how water use could be monitored at Elizabeth Road, to avoid unaffordable water bills, and it was decided to take action once the next water bill is received, possibly to install water troughs, the same as at Lamperds Field. A meet on site was arranged between Dave, Phil and Ian for the afternoon of 8th August, to do strimming.

(f) Report from the Webmasters – Pat Richardson/Craig Whelan

No report.

(g) Upkeep of allotments – Dave Buchan

Dave had been busy clearing vacant plots.

(h) Report from Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

The sun shone on the coffee morning on Saturday 7th July. There were about 25 allotment holders present and Malcolm Fowler's talk on "Making Mead" (and tasting) was very well received. The barbecue on 8th July was a roaring success. The weather was sweltering, and about 50 people attended. Another successful event, with thanks to all the hard work done by members of the Committee.

EVENTS TO COME

- Saturday 4th Aug. Coffee Morning at 11 am - Bring your favourite Recipe for courgettes or beetroot, plus a taster dish.
- Saturday 1st Sept. Coffee Morning at 11 am - A chance to chat with your Committee, with the usual coffee morning refreshments and raffle. (Ready for the AGM.)(Scarecrow judging today too.)
- Friday 28th Sept. AGM at 6.30 pm - the Corn Exchange in Blandford Forum. Free refreshments.
- Saturday 6th Oct. Coffee Morning at 11 am - Vlad Gore "Apple Pressing and More" - Bring apples
- Saturday 3rd Nov. By popular request - Malcolm Fowler – "Mead 2 – Making and Tasting!"
- Saturday 1st Dec. Christmas Gathering – Mulled wine, Christmas nibbles, and grand raffle. We need to appeal for raffle prizes.

(i) Report from Committee Member – Peter Brundish

No report.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 12th September 2018 at 7 pm.

5. The meeting closed at 8 p.m.

(Ann Edwards – 2nd August 2018)