

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.com

**Minutes of extra-ordinary meeting
held at the Lamperd's Field Store Room
On Wednesday 30th August 2017 at 7 pm
Chaired by Amanda Bibby**

Present: Amanda Bibby- Chair, Andy Dickinson – Treasurer, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Ian Ricketts – Seed Secretary, Diane Mawer – Plot Allocator, Ken Pearce – Plot Allocator, Norman Moors – Estate Manager. Apologies for absence: Pat Richardson and Dave Buchan

1. This meeting was an extra-ordinary meeting called by the Chairman and the Social Secretary to address concerns by plot holders and committee members.
2. Amanda said that she and other members of the Committee had experienced some inappropriate communications from plot holders, via email, telephone and in person.
3. Norman reported that:
 - (a) Elizabeth Road plot holders were unhappy with the increase in their rents. The Chairman said Rent had been increased after discussion between the Council and Committee members to ensure that sufficient funds were raised to cover the cost of the water bill.
 - (b) He also said that yellow cards had been put on overgrown allotments, including his own, and he said that no notice had been given. It was explained that yellow warning notices are issued to provide allotment holders with a month to address the state of their plots, where concerns have been identified by the Committee. Yellow cards are not placed on plots at the request of plot holders. A red warning is only issued after concerns have not been addressed. Where plot holders have requested extensions or support the Committee have endeavoured to support.

The Committee are offering a 6pm meeting for plot holders at Elizabeth Road to see if there are concerns which we can support with. Bills will still be available to be paid from 6pm and the full AGM will commence at 7pm. Amanda to arrange letters outlining details of this meeting to be sent.

4. In future, the Committee agreed that the website will be the means of access for emails (www.blandfordallotments.com). That all Committee Members' personal email addresses will be taken off the website. Any queries in future are to be directed through the website by email. Committee Members' personal telephone numbers are not to be used in future by plot holders – in the event of receiving a call, Committee Members are to direct them to the website to submit an email this way or put a letter in the Chairman's box in the shed to be dealt with at the next meeting.

5. It was pointed out by the Social Secretary that the Coffee Mornings on the first Saturday of the month take place for all allotment holders to enjoy free refreshments and more importantly communicate with fellow allotment holders and the Committee. Elizabeth Road are always included in this invitation. Details had been widely advertised to all allotment holders via minutes, email and posters, including Elizabeth Road. All minutes are openly available on the website for allotment holders to read.
6. It was agreed that the Committee will not accept inappropriate conduct/communications from plot holders.
7. It was agreed that the Management Committee had all worked long and hard (for free and without expenses) as a very successful team for the welfare of the allotments and their holders and have given up hundreds of hours of their free time. They are upset and aggrieved at receiving inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour from certain plot holders who think aggression is appropriate.
8. Both Treasurer and Chairman have decided not to stand for re-election. They will attend the meeting on the 11th of September and Amanda will lead the AGM after which they will step down.
9. Meeting closed at 7.45 pm.
10. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS
 - (a) Monday 11th September - Committee Meeting at 7 pm in the store room.
 - (b) Friday 29th September - A.G.M. in the Corn Exchange Blandford.
6pm Elizabeth Road, site specific meeting with the Committee
6pm Bills available for payment
7pm AGM

(Ann Edwards. 1/9/17)