

Blandford Allotment Society

Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Store Room
On Wednesday 8th June 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 McGaw - Plot Allocator, Maureen Cawley – Committee Member.

Apologies for absence: Pat Richardson, Dave Buchan

1. The meeting was opened at 7 pm by Amanda. The minutes were agreed and signed.
2. Treasurer: Andy said that we had a “windfall” of £248.51 repayment from the Water Board. Otherwise, the accounts are as before, standing at £1100 in credit. He gave credit to Norman for supplementing the accounts by some £300. Andy will make enquiries as to whether we can have another account which will give us more interest. He said the insurance for the tractor covers anyone trained to drive it. Amanda suggested 1 or 2 others, besides Norman, could be trained. Andy said that Health and Safety needs to be checked out, possibly at the Town Council meeting tomorrow. Regarding any rent increases, the general feeling was that we should try to maintain the present level of rents.
3. Plot Allocation: Dave said we have a healthy waiting list. 2 plots are being given up. Other overgrown plots, although having had their rent paid, had been left to overgrow. Fortunately, Norman had worked hard to trim and clear these in an effort to keep them under control. It was decided to do a plot walk after the meeting to pinpoint those who would need to be sent a yellow card, and those vacant.
4. Community Action requirements: Maureen Cawley will head a water butt cover making at the Coffee Morning on 2nd July. Material will be assembled at the front of the shed, and on that day, as many hands as possible will be welcome to put together the water butt covers and get them installed. Norman will support by securing the materials required.
5. Elizabeth Road update following on from recent break-ins: Norman reported that all has gone quiet and that the vandalism had ceased at the Elizabeth Road allotments since the last meeting, due to the sensor lights and signs warning of CCTV, plus the police presence. He would like to have another light installed. Andy said he would arrange the supply of this. The question of the “private allotments” sign not yet erected is to be put to the Council by Amanda at the 9th

June meeting. Allotment holders are now planting and putting up bean sticks etc. more confident that their efforts will not be damaged. Amanda pointed out the article in the Blackmore Vale, where Norman was recently presented with an award by the current Town Mayor for his continuous Community Service in Blandford Forum. The Committee confirmed their great appreciation and thanks for his work.

6. Social Secretary: The latest coffee morning on June 4th had been attended by 17 people, and Diane's talk on pest control was well received. Big thanks to all those who had agreed to talk, and also to those supplying the refreshments. There had now been a gathering in March, April, May and June. The next one is July 2nd when we will help with the water butt covers. It was agreed to have one on August 6th and another on September 3rd.
7. General Maintenance Issues: Diane reported a leak in the men's toilets, which she had initially managed. Norman said he could attend to that with a certain caustic chemical and bleach. The other issue - the rotting water butt covers, will be sorted out by Maureen and Norman.
8. Barbecue Arrangements: There was a good discussion resulting in the committee being allocated certain tasks, before and on the day. The erection of the marquee and tables, etc. would take place at 10.30 am on the morning of the barbecue, by members of the committee and volunteers from the allotments. Andy is to clean and prepare the two barbecues. It was suggested that Ann should do a rota of people manning the barbecue on the day and to put the rota on the board. She had already prepared a notice to be put on the board for people to put their names on, and to write down what dish they will be bringing. It was agreed that, on the day, those attending should donate towards the cost of their barbecue meats, and there will be a container alongside the barbecue for this purpose. People should bring their own chair, knife/fork and spoon and plate, and also bring their own drink.
9. Agenda for Council Meeting on 9th June: There was a lively discussion on the agenda items, and Amanda took note of the Committee's views, with the idea of putting our views across at the appropriate time.
10. AOB: Ian brought up the subject of the judging of the best kept allotments. It was decided to have best full plot, best half plot and best quarter plot, with certificates being presented. And then, a trophy for overall best plot. Dave Buchan to present prizes. It was suggested this should be presented at the AGM.
11. The meeting closed at 8pm and continued with a walk round of the allotments.
12. Date of next meeting is Wednesday July 6th at 7 p.m.

(Ann Edwards 8 June16)