

**Blandford Allotment Society**  
[www.blandfordallotments.co.uk](http://www.blandfordallotments.co.uk)  
**Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Potting Shed**  
**On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7 pm**  
**Chaired by: Ian Ricketts**

*Present: Ian Ricketts – Chair, Barbara Marjoram – Vice Chair, John Harding – Treasurer, Virginia Barnard – Webmaster, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary, Phil Williams – Elizabeth Road, Ken Pearce – Plot Allocator, Peter Brundish – Committee Member, Dave Buchan – Committee Member*

*Apologies for absence: Diane Mawer – Plot Allocator,*

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were approved and signed. There were no matters arising.

2. REPORTS

- (a) Report from Chairman – Ian Ricketts

Mr Miles had carried out the plot judging for best allotment during the first week of July. The results will be made public at the AGM in September, when the cup will also be presented.

The barbecue had been a great success with more people attending this year – in the region of 60. The barbecue was popular and food tables were filled to overflowing. The weather was dry and sunny. Ian now has two extra gazebos ready for next year. Costs were in the region of £120. Collection from the raffle around £70.

Agreements for the coming year are ready to be signed by the Chairman. A yellow card had been issued to one plot holder. If after one month, there is no improvement, then the red card will be issued. Action: Ian/Ken

Some plot holders with neglected plots had been contacted suggesting they might need to either give up their plot, or downsize. Action: Ian/Ken

Regarding the potato weigh-in day on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the coffee morning, Ian had received an offer from Gary and Hazel to supervise the weigh in. The Committee thought it would be a good idea. Ian to confirm with them the details. Action: Ian

Regarding the need for a hedge trimmer on work party days, Ian said it is more economical to hire one for the morning. In future, that is what will happen. He had hired one for the next Tuesday work day. Ian to let Ann know of any extra work parties needed for both Lamperds Field and Elizabeth Road, so that she can let plot holders know of the date and time in case they are keen to help. Action: Ian/Ann

A work party is needed in the autumn to repair the perimeter fence at Elizabeth Road.

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

Barbara said that the seed catalogues for 2020 are due to arrive any time now.

She asked for clarification of the town council's policy regarding wooden sheds. Ian will speak to The Council about their wooden sheds and parking overnight policies. Action: Ian

She said that she would like to drop the title of Vice Chair, as there appeared to be no duties involved. She is happy to continue in her role as seed secretary and committee member. The Committee unanimously agreed the change.

(c) Report from Treasurer – John Harding

The treasurer reported that he had now completed the end of year financial statement which he will present to the AGM in September. Generally speaking we have had a successful year. Costs had been well controlled even though we had paid around £500 extra for the summer water bill than might have been expected. The total costs were £6093.89 against last year £5879.04.

Income from rents was up by around 9% at £4195.48, seeds by around 15% at £851.67, and miscellaneous by around 65% at £1324.33 this being mostly thanks to Ian for his wheeling and dealing.

The outcome of this is that we are carrying forward £1895.81 as opposed to £1402.22 last year.

BBQ expenses to date are £124.82 and the raffle this year made a good profit of £70.

Following discussions with the Chairman, the treasurer has spoken to Lloyds bank and has arranged with them the facility to view the account on line. As yet he does not intend to operate the account on line but may take up this option in future. As a consequence he is now able to accept bank transfers for the rent when this becomes due in September and the payment instructions will be adjusted accordingly by the Council. Those paying by bank transfer MUST add the reference 'Site and Plot Number' or the Treasurer will not know who has paid. He is hoping this change will be a success for all involved but should it prove too much of a hassle he will withdraw the offer next year.

As recorded in last month's minutes we have now purchased a further smaller strimmer at a cost of £119, this cost was included in last years' accounts.

(d) Report from Plot Allocator – Ken Pearce

Nothing to report

(e) Report from Phil Williams, Elizabeth Road

Nothing to report.

(f) Report from the Webmaster – Virginia Barnard

Virginia had put lots of photos of the barbecue on the website. She is also working on allocating separate email addresses for the rest of the Committee to use solely for Blandford Allotment Committee business.

Action: Virginia

(g) Upkeep of allotments – Dave Buchan

Nothing to report

(h) Report from Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

The barbecue had been very successful this year.

She had cancelled the mini bus trip scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> July as it appeared to be wrongly timed. This will be postponed until Spring 2020.

Coffee Morning: August 3<sup>rd</sup> 11 am - (Tasting - Bring your baking (and recipe) using allotment vegetables) plus Ian's raffle. Virginia to stand in for Ann. (These recipes can be included in the proposed Allotment Recipe Book, so we need a photo along with the recipe please.)

Action: Virginia

Coffee Morning and potato weigh in: **September 14<sup>th</sup> 10 am (Note earlier time)** – Weigh in for biggest crop from one potato. Meet your Committee, prior to the Annual General Meeting on Friday evening of the 27<sup>th</sup> September. Plus Ian's raffle as usual.

Coffee Morning: October 5<sup>th</sup> 11 am - (Malcolm Fowler - Mead 3 - More Making and Tasting) plus Ian's raffle.

Coffee Morning: November 2<sup>nd</sup> 11 am – (John Harding - Strawberries) plus Ian’s raffle.

CHRISTMAS GATHERING: December 7<sup>th</sup> 11 am – Mulled wine, Christmas nibbles and Grand Christmas Raffle

(i) Report from Committee Member – Peter Brundish

No report

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ian said that Dorset County Council will be collecting scrap metal soon.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019 at 7 PM IN THE POTTING SHED.

5. The meeting closed at 8 pm

*(Ann Edwards – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019)*