

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.co.uk
Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Potting Shed
On Wednesday 5th June 2019 at 7 pm
Chaired by: Ian Ricketts

Present:

Ian Ricketts – Chair, Barbara Marjoram – Vice Chair, John Harding – Treasurer, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary, Phil Williams – Elizabeth Road, Ken Pearce – Plot Allocator, Peter Brundish – Committee Member

Apologies for absence:

Virginia Barnard – Webmaster, Diane Mawer – Plot Allocator, Dave Buchan – Committee Member

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 30th April 2019 were approved and signed. There were no matters arising.

2. REPORTS

(a) Report from Chairman – Ian Ricketts

Ian, John and Ken had attended the Town Council meeting on Tuesday 4th June. The Town Council are very happy with the work of the Blandford Allotment Committee. An increase of 3% in rentals for both Lamperd's Field and Elizabeth Road was agreed.

The recent break in at Lamperd's Field was reported to the Town Council. There was a discussion on security measures, where money from the ring fenced fund could possibly be used. Part of this security could involve securing two or three lock up sheds in the main shed, for storing valuable equipment. Action: Ian

The Town Council had carried out their yearly PAT testing, alarm servicing and Legionella testing. They will start to clear the Lamperd's Field compound with a skip to gradually remove the rubbish stored there.

When asked if there was any news concerning the proposed move, the Operations Manager reported that a new offer will be discussed by the Town Council on 10th June and that he would give the AMC an update, depending on the outcome.

The Chairman proposed to purchase one or more light weight strimmers, which could be used by the Work Parties. These would cost in the region of £120. The Committee agreed that Ian should investigate their suitability and purchase them. Action: Ian

He said the good news was that a skilled allotment holder had offered to service the tractor and the sit on mower, for free, just for the purchase of parts. The Committee were pleased to accept the offer, and hope these are done as soon as possible. The waste land at Elizabeth Road is being cleared by the Community Payback Scheme. The Town Council will supply a skip. Once done, it is hoped that it will stay cleared, and can possibly have a gate and bench. The water leak has been repaired at ER. Ian to contact Mr Miles for a date to judge the best plot. This will include all plots – quarter, half and full plots. Action: Ian

Barbecue: Some work to be done on the Saturday evening before the Sunday 7th July. If you are available, please come at 10.30 am on the Sunday morning of the 7th July to erect the marquee, gazebo, and put up tables, barbecue, flags, etc. Notices have been put up advertising the barbecue. There is a list on the noticeboard just inside the shed for people to put their names down. All meats and rolls etc. free. Please bring a dish to share if you can. Ian to order and collect all the meats and rolls near the date.

Action: Ian/Committee/Work Party

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

29 people had bought a potato and sack for the Competition. Weigh-in to be on 14th September.

Action: Barbara

(c) Report from Treasurer – John Harding

Unfortunately at the last meeting I quoted a wrong figure for the bank balance. This should have read £1815.45 and not as stated £2079.27 - my apologies. Our current bank balance is £1711.21 and we are still well ahead of last years carry forward bank balance of £1241.85, with all the services bills for this financial year now having been paid. The petty cash held by me is £176.40 and I am told by Ian that the miscellaneous fund is well in credit. With this in mind it is our intention to use some of our funds to purchase some equipment and to service our tractor and sit on mower.

There are two fairly recent newcomers who still have not yet paid. Action: John

(d) Report from Plot Allocator – Ken Pearce

No change with Elizabeth Road allotments since the last meeting – still 1 x ½ and 1 x ¼ plots available. Ian and Ken to meet with Phil to look at untended plots.

Lamperd's Field – we have had 4 new starters since the last meeting. Ian and I carried out a walk about to check on untended plots and have contacted 9 people regarding their plots. Three plot holders gave up immediately, some are undecided and no reply from two.

We now have 2 x ½ plots and 2 x ¼ plots available. We have no waiting list for either site.

(e) Report from Phil Williams, Elizabeth Road

No report.

(f) Report from the Webmaster – Virginia Barnard

No report from Virginia.

(g) Upkeep of allotments – Dave Buchan

No report

(h) Report from Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

Our Coffee Morning on June 1st on the subject of "Pests" was very popular – some 25 people attended. A copy of the talk can be found on the website

www.blandfordallotments.co.uk

Remaining dates for 2019 are:

July 7th (Sunday at 2 pm) - (Annual Barbecue and Grand Raffle) Bring a dish, own tiddle, knife, fork and spoon. Work party needed for the erection of the marquee and tables in the morning. Raffle prizes needed please.

August 3rd - (Tasting - Bring your baking (and recipe) for courgette, carrot or beetroot) plus Ian's raffle. (These recipes can be included in the proposed Allotment Recipe Book.)

September 14th – Weigh in for biggest crop from one potato. Meet your Committee, prior to the Annual General Meeting on Friday evening of the 27th September. Plus Ian's raffle as usual.

October 5th - (Malcolm Fowler - Mead 3 - More Making and Tasting) plus Ian's raffle.

November 2nd – (John Harding - Strawberries) plus Ian's raffle.

It was agreed to produce a recipe book, based on allotment produce, to be sold in aid of funds. Allotment holders are encouraged to send in their recipes to Ann.

Action: Ann

(i) Report from Committee Member – Peter Brundish
Peter is checking on the possibility of a carnival float.

Action: Peter

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 16th JULY 2019 at 7 PM IN THE POTTING SHED.

5. The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

(Ann Edwards – 7th June 2019)