

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.co.uk
Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperds Field Potting Shed
On Tuesday 19th November 2019 at 7 pm
Chaired by: Ian Ricketts

Present: Ian Ricketts – Chair, John Harding – Treasurer, Barbara Marjoram – Seed Sec./Plot allocator, Virginia Barnard – Webmaster, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary, Phil Williams – Elizabeth Road, Ken Pearce – Plot Enforcer, Dave Buchan – Committee Member.

Apologies for absence- Diane Mawer

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 15th October 2019 were approved and signed. There were no matters arising.

2. REPORTS

- (a) Report from Chairman – Ian Ricketts

The work party at Elizabeth Road on the weekend of 19th and 20th October, went extremely well, with a good team attending and erecting all the posts on the 19th. Refreshments were served, and enjoyed by everyone. Well done everyone.

A similar Work Party took place on the weekend of 16th and 17th November at Lamperds Field, which was also very successful. Hedges were cut, some plots were trimmed and bulbs were planted. Refreshments also went down well. Well done everyone.

The new secure lock up has been completed, with a security door and lock. Anyone with power tools who wish to use this, please contact Ken Pearce, who will hold the list. Each person must pay a deposit of £10 for their key.

There has been a big clean-up in the potting shed, with a kitchen unit make-over. Thanks everyone for all their work, and in particular to Diane for providing the units. Well done to Ken for his many hours of work.

It has been suggested that a lightweight rotavator is purchased for ladies' use. Ian has one which he will bring in and test for its suitability.

Ian has checked the outside lights, and will be approaching the Town Council.

Ian mentioned the 2020 carnival and asked for a possible budget. The Treasurer said that a max of £200 would be available. Sub-committee to be set up after Christmas to meet and start this off. Phil and Carol can serve on it, plus there are several plot holders who have voiced an interest in being involved. Obviously everyone will be expected to support it on the day, which will be in September 2020. (This year it was on the 7th of September.)

All allotment holders who had not paid have been contacted, and all wanting to continue have now paid.

- (b) Report from Treasurer – John Harding

As at 18th November the bank balance stands at £3119.83, about £500 ahead of last year. Petty cash held is £151.19

The Lamperds Field summer quarter water bill has been paid and at £1006.01 was only £110 less than last year when we experienced that very dry summer.

Additionally we have paid out around £450 for the security door and materials for the newly created security lock up...these costs will be repaid by the council from the ring fence fund.

All outstanding rents are paid, and we have taken around £4200 in rents so far this year.

(c) Report from Seed Secretary/Plot Allocator – Barbara Marjoram

Seed Secretary:

Kings Seeds and sundries have arrived and there are still 4 people to collect their seeds despite Facebook and emails sent.

Soft fruits will arrive later and potatoes in Feb/March 2020.

Plot Allocator:

There have been more new allotment tenants

Elizabeth Road site – 2 x ¼ plots let - that leaves 1 x ½ plot (or 2 x ¼ plots) left and 1 on the waiting list who does not want to take on a plot until the spring.

Lamperds Fields - since the last committee meeting there have been 2 x ½ and 8 x ¼ plots allocated.

LF has 3 x ½ plots or to be split into ¼ plots available with at least 2 x ½ more plots becoming available in the spring.

Waiting list for LF is presently 1 – who will be moving into the area shortly.

(d) Report from Plot Allocator – Diane Mawer

Nothing to report.

(e) Report from Plot Enforcer – Ken Pearce

Nothing to report.

(f) Report from Phil Williams, Elizabeth Road

Phil had nothing to report. Ian and Phil will meet up to list “do’s and don’ts” for Elizabeth Road allotment holders.

(g) Report from the Webmaster – Virginia Barnard

Virginia said that all is going well with the website. She will get a Tesco/02 sim card for the official allotment phone, as EE signal is not good. This will happen soon. Plot holders should be encouraged to use this direct number.....07726127563.

(h) Upkeep of allotments – Dave Buchan

Dave reported that there had been two very successful work parties at Lamperds Field and Elizabeth Road. He confirmed that there is a burning plot on both. He stressed that there is a work party at Lamperds Field every Wednesday morning from 9 to 12 pm, for those who would like to give a hand and perhaps drive the tractor!

(i) Report from Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

The November 2nd Coffee Morning proved to be a big hit, when Malcolm Fowler treated us to wine and mead tasting! Attendance was good, and everyone had a fine time. The Christmas Gathering is on December 7th. I will appeal again for raffle prizes, and at the same time, remind people of the day and time. Judith Potts and Phil Williams to be presented with their cups for best plot. They have both been approached. Photo to be submitted to Forum Focus. Nicci Brown will try to attend.

I will be thinking out the programme for 2020, soon after Christmas. The potato competition will be launched at the Coffee Morning in March 2020, and weighed in at the August 2020 coffee morning. The summer barbecue will take place the first Sunday in July instead of the usual coffee morning. The Annual Carnival will take place in September. Details to follow in the New year.

(j) Report from Committee Member – Peter Brundish

No report

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Everyone was asked to store the new mobile telephone number in their mobiles: 07726127563. It was agreed that the Committee's annual get together would be Tuesday 21st January, 7 pm at the Crown Hotel. Ken to organise.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2020 - 7 PM IN THE POTTING SHED

5. The meeting closed at 8 pm.

Ann Edwards (email: secretary@blandfordallotments.co.uk) – 19th November 2019