

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.co.uk
Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperds Field Potting Shed
On Tuesday 11th February 2020 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, Diane Mawer – Committee Members.

Apologies for absence- Peter Brundish – Committee Member

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 19th November 2019 were approved and signed. Regarding the possible purchase of a lightweight rotavator, it had been decided not to purchase this. There were no other matters arising.

2. REPORTS

(a) Report from Chairman – Ian Ricketts

The next work party will be on Sunday 15th March at Lamperd's field, from 10 am onwards. All allotment holders are invited to take part – the more hands, the lighter the work! Bring stout gloves and boots. Everything else supplied. We will be cutting pea-sticks and bean rods. There will be a bundle free for anyone taking part.

At the April coffee morning on Saturday April 4th, there will be a chance to discuss our carnival float and volunteer to be on the sub-committee being formed. Anyone with experience of this is particularly welcomed, and it is hoped they can attend this coffee morning and put their name forward. Everyone will help on the actual day of the carnival, which this year is September 12th. There will be the usual raffle. The sub-committee will be lead by several members of the main committee.

The Corn Exchange is booked for the AGM, which will take place this year on Friday evening of the 25th September.

Ian said that he would get together with Phil and Carol and Barbara to thrash out a document listing the do's and don'ts at Elizabeth Road. **Action: Ian, Phil, Carol, Barbara**

Another new lock had to be fitted to the gate as the previous one was damaged in the storm. Ian to seek advice of the Town Council regarding damage to the gate and also provision of finances for this and the new padlock. **Action: Ian**

The first aid box had been completed and fixed on the wall. Also a new post box for committee members to receive allotment holders' mail has been completed and is now erected. Ann to provide a notice. **Action: Ann**

The lock up is now available. Ian will put up a notice on the board. **Action: Ian**

Regarding the burning plot, it was agreed that a proper notice is obtained and erected, listing banned items. **Action: John**

(b) Report from Treasurer – John Harding

The balance at the bank is £2731.59. The petty cash held is £149.99. Compared with last year there was £2092.73 in the bank and £98.90 in petty cash. All bills are up to date but we have committed a sum of £300 to the carnival float fund, which in any case will probably fall into next year's accounts.

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

Seed Secretary:

The Kings seed orders are now complete with the last of the potato orders having been collected. Barbara asked that she be released from the position of Seed secretary so that she can concentrate on her Plot Allocator position. Is there a volunteer who can take her place please? She is chitting potatoes for the potato competition.

Plot Allocator:

At present all plots on Elizabeth Road site are let. There is one person on the waiting list. Lamperd's Field has one quarter plot vacant and five that could either be half plots or split into quarter plots. Regarding one half plot, the tenant is in the process of moving their equipment to their new plot at Elizabeth Road, so this one is not immediately vacant.

(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. He will be getting together with Ian, Barbara and Carol to sort out the do's and don'ts for ER plot holders

(g) Report from the Webmaster – Virginia Barnard

Virginia said she had little to report. All is going well with the website and the domain name had been renewed and paid for.

(h) Upkeep of allotments – Dave Buchan

Dave reported that he had been very busy tidying, burning and clearing plots.

(i) Report from Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

All coffee mornings are 11 am to 12 pm, and FREE coffee, tea and fresh cake are provided. Ian's raffle also takes place, at £1 a strip. All are at Lamperd's Field - outside if fine, if not, in the Potting Shed. **Dates for your diary:**

Saturday 7th March – Register, collect your potato and bag for the competition. Those who have a potato bag from last year will only be required to purchase the potato. For those who didn't participate last year we have a number of potato bags to purchase with the potato.

Saturday 4th April – Come and discuss our Carnival Float and volunteer help

Saturday 2nd May – Eco Bottles. Demo by Virginia and others.

Saturday 6th June – Allotment Quiz

No coffee morning on Saturday 4th July.

Sunday 5th July -2pm Annual Barbecue

Saturday 1st August – Potato Competition weigh in.

Saturday 5th September – TBA

Saturday 12th September – Our float in the Blandford Carnival

Saturday 3rd October - TBA

Saturday 7th November – TBA

Saturday 5th Dec –Xmas Gathering and Grand Raffle.

(j) Report from Committee Member – Peter Brundish
No report

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Virginia had received an email from a company in Manchester, asking to be linked to our website. Discussion ensued and it was agreed not to allow this.
- (b) It was agreed that we should ask the Town Council for a new outside notice board to come out of ring-fenced monies. **Action: Ian**
- (c) Ann was asked to do a couple of laminated notices clearly stating the allotment mobile number, for display outside and inside. **Action Ann**
- (d) The state of the benches was discussed. It was agreed to put this on next month's agenda for a full discussion.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY MARCH 18TH - 7 PM IN THE POTTING SHED

5. The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Ann Edwards (email: secretary@blandfordallotments.co.uk) – 11th February 2020