

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.co.uk
Minutes of Committee meeting held
On Sunday 9th August 2020 at 11 a.m.

Present: Committee Members: Ian Ricketts – Chairman, Barbara Marjoram – Plot allocator/Seed Secretary, Virginia Barnard – Webmaster, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary, Phil Williams – Elizabeth Road, Ken Pearce – Plot Enforcer, Peter Brundish, Dave Buchan. Apologies: John Harding, Diane Mawer.

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 8th May 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. REPORTS

(a) Report from Chairman – Ian Ricketts

(1) Covid 19

The Chairman asked the Committee “ how did we do on implementing Covid 19 precautions”? The Committee was satisfied with the arrangements in place. It was decided to re-open both the ladies and the gent’s toilets, but NOT the kitchen, as yet. People using the toilets must be responsible, keep within the Covid 19 guide-lines, and use the sprays provided. A parent must accompany their child to the toilet. Thank you to Ken for offering to oversee the use of the toilets.

(2) Plot Judging

Lamperds Field:

Full plot – 1st Judith Potts, 2nd Tim Farrow, 3rd Christopher and Virginia Barnard.

Half plot – 1st Darrel Adams, 2nd Laura Drane

Quarter plot – 1st Christine Adams, 2nd Heather Shepherd

Elizabeth Road:

1st Phill Williams, 2nd Amenda Bealing, 3rd Deborah Wright.

(3) A.G.M.

The Committee agreed that the A.G.M. scheduled for the end of September will not now take place. At some point the Committee will agree a date for presenting the cup for best plot at both Lamperds Field and Elizabeth Road. Other winners will be presented with a certificate. This will take the form of an informal outside gathering at Lamperds Field, similar to the Potato Day weigh in. Date TBA.

As far as collection of rents is concerned there are several methods which can be used, including putting in the Committee Box in the shed. The Treasurer prefers plot holders to use BACS. Details on your September Agreement. Otherwise, there will be collection of rents on Saturday 26th September at Lamperds Field, from 10 am to 12 pm, when the Treasurer will be present.

(4) Seed Secretary

Annette Baxter has very kindly agreed to take over the responsibility of Seed Secretary. The Committee agreed to co-opt her on to the Committee.

(5) Thief

A careful eye has been kept out for the thief. Since the incident, there has been no further theft.

(6) Gate

The gate slider is being repaired.

(7) Benches

Several benches are beyond repair. They are to be uplifted and destroyed.

Action: Work Party

(8) "Allotments Relocation"

The secretary had searched the files for information on the proposed move of the allotments by the Town Council. Correspondence is there from February 2016 to date detailing agreements, meetings etc. Certain terms have been agreed with the Town Council before relocating the plots. Discussions with the Town Council have taken place over recent years, and these are very detailed and provide for as good or better facilities for Lamperds Field Plot holders. However, there had been a plan published recently in the local press and online, showing a completely different map for the relocation. This plan is not in accordance in any way with previous talks and commitments between the Committee and the Town Council.

It was proposed as follows:

(8a) That the Committee rejects the new current proposed published plans and that the Town Council is informed (copy to the developer). Proposed by Ian and seconded by Virginia.

Action: Chairman

(8b) That the Chairman writes to the Town Council asking for a meeting as soon as possible, preferably to take place at Lamperds Field site, consisting of officers of the BAS Committee, the Town Council and the developers to urgently discuss the present situation. Proposed by Ken Pearce, seconded by Peter Brundish.

Action: Chairman

(b) Report from John Harding, Treasurer

As the Treasurer was not present, the Chairman gave a precis of his report. We are on a water meter at Lamperds Field so water must be used sparingly. It had been decided this year not to put a water levy on plot holders rent for the excessive use of water, and that the BAS will cover the unusually high water bill. Talks are ongoing to encourage plot holders to have water butts to harvest their own water. There is growing concern that those plot holders harvesting their own water are being penalised for those plot holders wasting communal water..

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

Seed Secretary

Potato Competition – the weigh-in was held in a socially distanced way on 1st August 2020. 21 people submitted their bags for weighing and it was a success. Annette Baxter has now taken on the role of Seed Secretary. She has received the catalogues and will be distributing them shortly.

Plot Allocator

We have a waiting list for both Elizabeth Road and Lamperds Field. There are:-

3 people wanting ER only

3 people do not mind between ER & LF

12 people wanting LF only

If people do not reply to my emails then I move onto the next person on the list.

Since January 2020 I have allocated 23 plots at LF and 5 plots at ER. At the time of writing there is only 1 x ¼ plot at LF available but that will be allocated in the next few days.

We are aware that some plot holders are downsizing their plots and this week we will be reviewing the state of all plots. Those who do not meet a satisfactory cultivation criteria will not have their tenancy renewed. This will release plots to be allocated against the waiting list.

(d) Committee Member – Diane Mawer

No report.

(e) Elizabeth Road – Phil Williams

No actual problems at ER at the moment.

Most plots are being cultivated up to a point; one was looking very poor after the lady returned to work after lockdown but she has been on it this week and had a good tidy up.

One of the plot holders at the Philip Rd end has been complaining about the slope down from his gate, he made it worse himself after putting down some tarmac.

There was a discussion on this, and it was suggested that perhaps the tarmac should be removed to put it right. A site meeting will be arranged to look into a solution. It was noted that someone had taken wood off some-one else's plot. Allotment holders are not allowed to trespass on other people's plots without the plot holder's permission. It was agreed that Carol Williams would be co-opted onto the Committee as joint representative for ER, along with Phil.

Action: Work Party

(f) Webmaster – Virginia Barnard

Nothing to report.

(g) Upkeep of Allotments – Dave Buchan

No report.

(h) Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

Nothing to report.

(i) Committee Member – Peter Brundish

Nothing to report.

2. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Sunday 25th October 2020 at 11 am.

Ann Edwards (email: secretary@blandfordallotments.co.uk) – 9th August 2020

Please note: 2 attachments.