

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.co.uk
Minutes of Virtual Committee meeting held
On Sunday 6th December 2020 at 11 a.m.

Virtual attendance : Committee Members: Ian Ricketts – Chairman, John Harding – Treasurer, Barbara Marjoram – Plot allocator, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary, Phil/Carol Williams – Elizabeth Road, Virginia Barnard – Webmaster, Annette Baxter – Seed Secretary, Peter Brundish, Dave Buchan.

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 25th October 2020 were approved.

2. REPORTS

(a) Report from Chairman – Ian Ricketts

As we come to the end of the year, thank goodness for our allotments! It's been a challenging time and it's been good to get on our plots. Welcome to all new plot holders. It's been a great pleasure to see so many working and enjoying their allotments. Elizabeth Road is now full and just a few vacancies at Lamperd's Field. We will be holding the potato competition next year, also the coffee mornings as soon as we are able to.

Blandford Town Council have voted against the new proposed development. Although the Town Council supports a new school and infrastructure in that part of the town in line with its neighbourhood plan, it objects to the application on the grounds of avoidable environmental impact and the impact on traffic and highways safety. It now has to go before Dorset County Council sometime in the New Year. On behalf of your committee, may I thank you all for your support, and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

(b) Treasurer's Report - John Harding

As at 4th December 2020, the balance at Lloyds is £4849.14. Petty cash stands at £403.81.

I have recently paid the water bills for the summer half year period...£1545 for Lamperd's Field and £403 for Elizabeth Road.....roughly what we had predicted, given the dry summer we experienced. This works out at approx. £11 per allotment holder at Lamperd's and £12 per allotment holder at Elizabeth Rd.

(c) Plot Allocator – Barbara Marjoram

It has remained a busy time on the plots. There are only 2 available ¼ plots and a waiting list (2 for Elizabeth Road, 7 for Lamperd's Field and 2 who don't mind which site. This does not take into consideration a number of people who have been contacted and not replied.).

I have not let any plots during this last lockdown. There have been a few occasions when both the Treasurer and I have had to chase plot holders for payment, for their plot. The Council are quite clear (See regulations) – payment must be received within 30 days otherwise they will be evicted from the plot and it will be re-let.

Please ensure you advise the committee of any change of address and/or email otherwise you will not receive communications from us and/or the Council.

The allotment shed is for everyone's use. We would therefore ask for volunteers to add their name, for 2021, for a month, for cleaning duties, which are to sweep out the hut and ensure the toilets are clean, on a weekly basis. Your help is very much appreciated. The signup sheet is on the noticeboard, on the left, just inside the shed. (There is no one on this list from February onwards.) Many thanks.

Unfortunately, we have had another theft from the Lamperd's Field site - in particular a digging fork has been removed from Plot 32A1 - could we please ask the person to return it. We take theft seriously and if the culprit is found, having not returned the fork, they will be evicted from their plot.

(d) Phil and Carol Williams – Elizabeth Road

Nothing to report.

(e) Webmaster – Virginia Barnard

Nothing to report at this time.

(f) Report from Dave Buchan

No report.

(g) Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

Socially speaking, we have had a pretty disappointing year!

But, the following is the proposed diary for 2021, with more details coming to you next year (including Covid regs. at the time).

Saturday March 27th 2021, 10 am – Handing out of potatoes for potato competition

Sunday August 22nd 2021, 10 am – Weigh in of potatoes

Coffee Mornings (all with Ian's raffle):

Saturday May 8th 2021, 11 am – Speaker and subject tba

Saturday June 5th 2021, 11 am – Speaker and subject tba

Saturday August 1st 2021, 11 am – Speaker and subject tba

Saturday September 4th 2021, 11 am – Speaker and subject tba

Saturday October 2nd 2021, 11 am – Speaker and subject tba

ANNUAL BARBECUE

Sunday July 4th 2021 at 2 pm. Free to plot holders and their family, with donation towards meats. Bring food. List of food and attendees on the board nearer the time.

BLANDFORD CARNIVAL - SEPTEMBER 2021

Blandford Carnival – We hope to enter our own BAS float – date and details to follow.

CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Saturday December 4th 2021, 12 pm – Lunch time gathering, Mulled wine and Christmas nibbles plus Grand Christmas Raffle.

SCARECROW COMPETITION

It has been suggested that in 2021 we have the scarecrow competition, as we also now have a number of new plot holders with children who are keen to take part. Having said that – please, adults as well, take part. If you are interested, please register your name along with your plot number and email address or telephone number, with myself -secretary@blandfordallotments.co.uk - and start making your scarecrows next year, at your leisure, for putting on your plot Springtime onwards. A day for judging will be agreed by the Committee in the New Year.

I would urge everyone, particularly new plot holders, to go on to our website www.blandfordallotments.co.uk and view previous minutes, which contain a wealth of information relevant to all allotment holders, plus there's lots of other interesting topics on there, all kept up to date, for you, by our hard working webmaster -Virginia.

(h) Committee Member – Peter Brundish - Nothing to report.

(i) Seed Secretary – Annette Baxter

There isn't much to report. The seed order was sent off in time to qualify for the early bird discount and Kings Seeds have confirmed receipt. They did say that they are currently dealing with higher than normal demands and social distancing requirements are also having an impact on order processing and delivery times. There is currently no estimated delivery date but I will let everyone know as soon as I hear anything.

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Sunday 7th February 2021 at 11 am.

Ann Edwards (email: secretary@blandfordallotments.co.uk) – 8th December 2020