

**Blandford Allotment Society**  
[www.blandfordallotments.co.uk](http://www.blandfordallotments.co.uk)  
**Minutes of Zoom Committee meeting held**  
**On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 11 a.m.**

*Attendance :*

*Ian Ricketts – Chairman,*

*Virginia Barnard – Webmaster,*

*Barbara Marjoram – Plot allocator,*

*Phil and Carol Williams – Elizabeth Road,*

*Ann Edwards – Social Secretary*

*Apologies: John Harding – Treasurer, Annette Baxter – Seed Secretary, Peter Brundish, Dave Buchan.*

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were approved and signed.

2. **REPORTS**

- (a) Report from Chairman – Ian Ricketts

- (i) Let's not forget Covid is still about, so we must still remain vigilant. All the measures we have had in place seem to be working ok, and now it looks like there will be an end to the restrictions, gradually, at the Government's timings.

- (ii) We have replaced two water troughs and two more need replacing. The locks on the main shed doors have been replaced – all paid from the ring fence money.

- (iii) Pea sticks and bean poles have been cut by the work party. They are by the allotment shed and are £2.50 a bundle. There is a supply of compost inside the shed at £3.50 per bag.

- (b) Treasurer's Report - John Harding

As at 5<sup>th</sup> March, the current account stands at £4251.23 and petty cash held is £166.32. We have one major bill to pay which is the tractor insurance and this should be around £300. Compared to this time last year, we are ahead by approximately £1000 which reflects the additional rents we have received after the end of the financial year last year last June (i.e. late summer and again in Autumn). We have, however lost a fair amount of income because of lack of social gatherings and because of there being less buying and reselling activity by our Chairman. Water troughs are springing leaks at an amazing rate and at over £100 each, the Council are funding replacements from the ring fence fund.

- (c) Plot Allocator – Barbara Marjoram

There have been no new plot holders since the start of 2021 due to COVID restrictions.

This has given present plot holders the opportunity to move plots -

1 has taken on an extra 1/4 plot

1 has moved from 1/2 to a 1/4 plot

1 has moved from 1/4 to a 1/2 plot.

One plot holder has given up as he now has a plot at Blandford St Mary. After discussion with the site manager at Blandford St Mary 3 people have been removed

from our waiting list as they now have plots at the new Blandford St Mary's allotments.

On the waiting list there are

11 people requesting only Lamperds' Fields site

6 requesting Elizabeth Road site only

5 requesting either LF or ER

(a couple, on the waiting list have requested specific plots - near/next to their friends which may take longer to address)

At present there are 4 x 1/4 plots and at a later date 1 x 1/2 plot at Lamperds Field.

People on the waiting list will be contacted once restrictions are lifted.

A reminder to plot holders using the main shed - please make sure you turn off all lights in the main shed, particularly in the toilets.

(d) Phil and Carol Williams – Elizabeth Road

The plotholders with the lower numbers don't see the notice board at the Philip Rd end. They tend not to pass it. Would it be an idea to have another one? Committee agreed that Ian and Phil will meet on site to discuss putting up another post and erecting laminated notices.

It seems that some new plotholders don't always know which gate they should use and also which path they are responsible for. Barbara (plot allocator) said that full explanations were given when handing out plots as to what they are responsible for. But she will meet on site to discuss with Phil and Carol.

A few low number plots are getting increasingly untidy with not much cultivation going on but have lots of rubbish and what shall we call it, stuff. This issue will also be dealt with at site meetings between Ian, Barbara and Phil.

We hope that Barry is really going to move the shed. This is in hand.

(e) Webmaster – Virginia Barnard

Nothing to report at this time.

(f) Report from Dave Buchan

No report.

(g) Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

Because of Covid restrictions, the 2021 diary has had to be revamped. Agreed dates for your diary are now:

Sunday March 21st 2021, 10 am – Handing out of potatoes for potato competition

Sunday August 22nd 2021, 2 pm – Weigh in of potatoes and Annual Barbecue (free to plotholders)

Coffee Mornings (all with Ian's raffle):

Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2021, 11 am – CANCELLED

Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2021, 11 am – CANCELLED

Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, 11 am – CANCELLED

Saturday September 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, 11 am – Speaker and subject tba

Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021, 11 am – Speaker and subject tba

Blandford Carnival entry - CANCELLED

Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, 12 pm – Christmas lunch time gathering, Mulled wine and Christmas nibbles plus Grand Christmas Raffle.

SCARECROW COMPETITION

If you can erect a scarecrow on your plot please register on the sheet on the board just inside the Main Shed door. There will be a prize for the best entry! Judging will be on 22nd August 2021 at the Annual Barbecue.

Annual General Meeting

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 6.30 pm for 7 pm in the Corn Exchange (Chairman will book)

(h) Committee Member – Peter Brundish

Nothing to report.

(i) Seed Secretary – Annette Baxter

Nothing to report.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed the proposed allotment move.

The Chairman said that at the Town Council Meeting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March, he, along with Virginia (Webmaster) and Steve Offer (plot holder) had attended via zoom. The Council agreed that we need separate parking and a separate building. There was a discussion about whether Dorset County Council will be adopting the road - no conclusion was reached.

Ian had contacted the National Allotment Society about the move. The South West Representative had been in touch and had offered us assistance. Virginia, our Webmaster, has offered to take on the task of representing the Committee regarding the move, in collaboration with the NAS South West Rep. The file will be passed over to her. The Committee were pleased that she will now deal with all things to do with the move, including representation at Council, meetings on Committee's behalf.

The Webmaster (Virginia) reported on the same Town Council Meeting as follows: Support came from Roger Carter who suggested we should have secure and exclusive parking. Hugh Mieville/Steve Hutchings suggested a palisade perimeter fence which will be lockable and secure. There needs to be clarification on the access road with Dorset Council who are unwilling to adopt and neither are Blandford Town Council. Alan Cross put forward that parking should be divided between allotments and public and how many parking spaces do we need? Lynn Lindsay summarised by saying we should definitely be given exactly the same as we have now 'Like-for-Like'. At this point Virginia felt the Town Council is sympathetic regarding our move. Forum Focus Magazine have asked us for a statement.

Chairman reported that Laura Drane asked if we would be happy for her to contact fellow ploholders to gauge opinions and ideas regarding the move. The Committee agreed that, as a private individual, it has no objection, but that the Committee as such, would not take part.

Gordon Bull sadly passed away recently. He was instrumental in the setting up of the Lamperds Field Allotments site and served faithfully on the Blandford Allotment Society Committee for many years. Our thoughts are with his wife Rosie and his family.

#### **4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7 pm**

The meeting closed at 11.57 am.

*Ann Edwards (email: [secretary@blandfordallotments.co.uk](mailto:secretary@blandfordallotments.co.uk)) – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021*