

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.co.uk
Minutes of Committee meeting held
On Monday 17th May 2021 at 7 pm
At Lamperds Field Potting Shed

Attendees :

Ian Ricketts – Chairman, John Harding – Treasurer, Barbara Marjoram – Plot allocator, Phil and Carol Williams – Elizabeth Road, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary, Annette Baxter – Seed Secretary, Dave Buchan – Site Maintenance

Apologies for absence:

Virginia Barnard – Webmaster, Peter Brundish – Committee Member

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 12th April 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
2. Matters arising:
 - (a) Regarding the proposed allotment move, a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 19th April, via zoom, with the Town Council Steering Group and 30 allotment holders, had been circulated to all plot holders. It was noted that the Blandford+ Neighbourhood plan had been passed via referendum on May 6th 2021.
 - (b) The Chairman had met the representative of the National Allotment Society. NAS recommended that we should obtain a soil sample of the proposed new area for the allotments. Ian will pursue.

3. REPORTS

(a) Report from Chairman – Ian Ricketts

Ian said that we have permission from the Town Council to plant a hazel copse at Elizabeth Road Allotments. There are now plans in hand to do this.

The gate must now be closed during the day. The kitchen will re-open on Monday 17th May.

The water leak has been mended.

Regarding the notice board at Elizabeth Road, this will be done by the work party on Wednesday 19th May.

Complaints had been received about plot holders blocking communal roads. Parking is not allowed on roads, except for loading and unloading. Otherwise vehicles must be parked in the proper allocated place.

The yearly meeting with the Town Council takes place on Thursday 27th May. Ian had a copy of the agenda for this and shared this with the Committee. Minutes of this meeting will be available to the Chairman for circulation to the committee in due time. It was noted that the proposed rent increase from September 2021 is very minimal.

(b) Treasurer's Report – John Harding

Lloyds Account Balance as at 15/5/21... £3949.75
Petty Cash held by Treasurer£166.19

3 outstanding rents to come approx. £30

The treasurer presented the meeting with the estimated accounts for year ending 30th June, this being the document he will present to the Council on 27th May. We are once again going to carry forward a healthy figure around £1000 more than last year. This is mostly due to a large increase in Kings seeds orders and hence a large increase in

commission received, plus a very healthy increase in miscellaneous receipts, mostly due to extra sales of manure as new people take on plots. The Committee thought it might be an opportunity to look at purchasing essential equipment for the work party, albeit a new mower being the most important.

(c) Plot Allocator – Barbara Marjoram

The one plot that became available at the Lamperds Field site was immediately re-let.

We have undertaken the 1st plot inspection of the year. Following on from this, 'Yellow', need improvement, letters are being sent to 4 people at Elizabeth Road and 9 people at Lamperds Field.

On the waiting list there are 11 for Lamperds Field, 9 for Elizabeth Road and 3 for either site.

(d) Phil and Carol Williams – Elizabeth Road

It had been reported to Phil and Carol that dog mess had been found at the bottom of the "hospital" allotment. This is not the first time it has happened apparently. The Committee took a dim view of such fouling on allotments – any plot holder found to be responsible for this will be evicted from their plot.

The second notice board is ready to be put up. Please can we have two laminated notices.

(e) Webmaster – Virginia Barnard – No report.

(f) Site Maintenance – Dave Buchan – No report.

(g) Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Barbecue – Sunday August 22nd at 2 pm

Plus result of potato competition, scarecrow competition, Ian's Raffle.
(At Lamperds Field)

Coffee Morning – Saturday September 4th at 11 am

Come and meet your Committee. Ian's raffle. (At Lamperds Field).

Annual General Meeting – Friday October 1st at 6.30 pm for 7 pm

In The Corn Exchange, Blandford.

Coffee Morning – Saturday October 2nd at 11 am

Speaker and subject tba. Plus Ian's raffle

Christmas Buffet Coffee Morning and Grand Christmas Draw – Saturday December 4th at 11 am

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

(i) Seed Secretary – Annette Baxter – Nothing to report.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – No other business.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 5th July at 7 pm at Lamperd's Field

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

(secretary@blandfordallotments.co.uk)