

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.co.uk
Minutes of Committee meeting held
On Monday 27th September 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

Apologies for absence:

Virginia Barnard – Webmaster, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary, Annette Baxter – Seed Secretary

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 10th August 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
2. No matters arising.

3. REPORTS

(a) Chairman – Ian Ricketts

The AGM is this Friday – 1st October 2021 starting at 19.00. The Corn Exchange will be open from 18.30 so that plot holders can pay rents and pick up a seed catalogue. The Council have agreed that those plot holders who live outside the Blandford Forum boundary will be allowed to keep their entitlement to a plot when the site moves.

There will be a coffee morning at Woodhouse Gardens 4 December 2021, starting at 11.00. Action Ann Edwards to produce notices for LF & ER notice Boards

There will be a work party, at Elizabeth Road allotments, on Sunday 24 October 2021 to prepare the site of the Platinum Jubilee coppice - all helpers welcome. There may be another day, this year, required and the planting of the hazel will be Feb/March 2022.

(b) Treasurer – John Harding

Balance at Lloyds Bank 24th September £4862.38, Petty cash £184.07. I have purchased £60 Gift Voucher for presentation to award winners on 1st.October.

As usual, rents are coming in slowly....a little behind last year.....around 50% paid so far. I have asked Ann to circulate an email reminder that rents are due by the end of next week.

(c) Plot Allocator – Barbara Marjoram

The work party has been very busy preparing vacant plots ready for re-letting. Many plots have been left in a very poor state and this year has seen a rise in evictions. In the last 2 months 10 plots have been let at Lamperds Field and there will be another 8 plots, once they are ready. Elizabeth Road site will have some plots for renting in the next 1-2 months.

(d) Elizabeth Road – Phil and Carol Williams

There is some concern regarding the state of 2 plots - this will be followed up. All plot holders are required to keep the path, by the side of their plot, cut and tidy.

(e) Webmaster – Virginia Barnard

No report.

(f) Site Maintenance – Dave Buchan

No report

(g) Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

AGM - Friday 1st Oct., 6.30 pm onwards to pay rents. Meeting starts at 7 pm, in the Corn Exchange. Refreshments.

Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd October – cancelled.

The last event of 2021 is:

Christmas Coffee Morning at Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion on Saturday 4th December, starting at 11 am. Access for helpers setting up is from 10 am.

(h) Committee Member – Peter Brundish

No report.

(i) Seed Secretary – Annette Baxter

A big thank you to all allotmenters who have already submitted their orders. To date I have received 13 orders, totalling £431.50. The amount so far is less than a quarter of the total value of last year's order, but you will agree that last year was quite out of the ordinary.

The seed catalogues have been out for a while now and sadly the response so far has been a little slow.

I am assuming this is partly due to the delays we experienced with Kings Seeds during the pandemic, however, I am hopeful that Kings have overcome the difficulties and will be back to their usual efficient self.

I will be accepting orders until 16th October, that will leave plenty of time to achieve the Early Bird discount.

Extra catalogues will be made available on the evening of the AGM and I will also post a reminder on our Facebook page.

May I suggest that next year we consider a way of making payments by bank transfer available for the seed orders, cheques are becoming increasingly unpopular, especially with the younger generation.

A discussion took place regarding the ability to pay by BACS next year and John has suggested that should be possible. He needs to set up instructions e.g. in the information section people will be required to identify that it is for seeds (as this happens at the same time as renewal rents) and plot number.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - None

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 8th November at 7 pm at Lamperd's Field

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

(secretary@blandfordallotments.co.uk)