

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.co.uk
Minutes of Committee meeting held
On Monday 21st February 2022 at 7 pm
At Lamperds Field Potting Shed

Attendees :

Ian Ricketts – Chairman, John Harding – Treasurer, Barbara Marjoram – Plot allocator, Virginia Barnard – Webmaster, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary, Phil and Carol Williams – Elizabeth Road, Annette Baxter – Seed Secretary.

Apologies for absence:

Peter Brundish, Dave Buchan

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 8th November 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
2. Matters Arising – All works mentioned in the minutes of 8th November have been carried out.

3. REPORTS

(a) Chairman – Ian Ricketts

On 12th and 13th March 2022 there will be a presentation on the proposed allotment move. In the meantime, plot holders are urged to read the agenda and minutes of the Town Council's Planning Meeting on 7th February 2022, which are readily available on their website and are attached.

On the same two days (12th and 13th) potatoes will be handed out and registered for the potato competition.

A plot holder had asked permission to put a table outside for excess produce, destined for the community fridge project. He can collect on a Tuesday and Saturday.

Permission was granted for this.

There had been reports of pilfering from plots. Anyone caught will be told to leave.

There had also been some dog mess around the site. This is unacceptable and causes very unpleasant grass cutting. Although dogs are welcome, they must be kept under control.

The agreed £50, for the purchase of trees, for the yellow bus project, has been given to them.

We have been asked if we could do a regular column in the Blackmore Vale on "Allotment Gardening". If anyone feels they are suitably qualified and would like to take on the responsibility of this, then please contact the Chairman as soon as possible by email at chairperson@blandfordallotments.co.uk. Thank you.

There had been reports that the gate had been left wide open at the end of the day. Plot holders are reminded that it must be locked if they are the last to leave.

(b) Treasurer – John Harding

As at 20th Feb. balance at bank is £4826.05 and petty cash with the treasurer £322.12. This gives us about £700 above last year's total at this time of year. In December I paid the general insurance £313.78 (same as last year) and the fees due to the National Allotment society £522 (£492 last year).

We have just paid £260.80 for 2 new front tractor tyres, and I am aware that we would ideally like to service the tractor which is now 11 years old and has never had a service.

The only major cost still to come in this financial year is tractor insurance (around £260). Therefore, I believe that if the cost of service would be less than say £600 we should go ahead with it. The Committee agreed to proceed.

The Town Council had reimbursed the cost of the fence and skip at Elizabeth Road.

(c) Plot Allocator – Barbara Marjoram

Since the last Committee meeting there have been a few individuals giving up plots due to moving away or no longer have the time to cultivate it. There had been some evictions due to poor cultivation.

Elizabeth Road - 2 plots have been rented out and this means ER site is now full
Lamperds Field - 6 quarter plots and 1 half plot have been rented out.

This leaves LF with 1 x 1/4 plot, available shortly and 3 x 1/4 plots needing work to make them available to rent out. This should release them in a month or two.

There is now only a short waiting list, due to people who have been contacted advising that they are no longer in a position to take on a plot or have not replied to emails.

The annual potato competition.

Individuals can register and purchase a potato on either 12th March 10 to 11am, or 13th March 09.30 – 10 am during the coffee morning and hazel coppicing sessions. This year it is a main crop potato.

Those who have previously purchased a potato grow bag only need to buy the potato at £1.

Those who do not have the 'official' potato grow bag will need to purchase 1 at £2 plus a potato at £1.

There is a limit of 30 participants.

The competition weigh in will be held at the coffee morning - 3rd September 2022

There is a prize for the heaviest crop.

(d) Seed Secretary – Annette Baxter

All seed and potato orders have been distributed now. Overall, it turned out to be a smooth transaction with Kings Seeds this year, with reasonable delivery spans and all goods going to the correct address. Roll on next year!

(e) Elizabeth Road – Phil and Carol Williams

There had been some storm damage. Several plots are neglected and not up to standard.

(f) Webmaster – Virginia Barnard

Domain Name:

The Domain Name invoice received £8.34 for 2022/2023

Website Activity:

Visitors in December 2021: 1,171 of those 727 are new visitors

Visitors in January 2022: 1,052 of those 575 are new visitors

Visitors in February (21/02/22): 680 of those 405 are new visitors

Locales:

Top 3 Countries visiting the website:

USA

UK

Germany

Most downloaded files:

How to Grow Potatoes in a Container

Anns' talk on Pests and Diseases

(g) Site Maintenance – Dave Buchan

No report

(h) Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

The 2021 Christmas coffee morning had been a great success.

The next coffee mornings are on 12th and 13th March, which will include an opportunity to pick up potatoes for the competition and hazel coppicing.

On Saturday 12th March at Lamperds Field, you can collect your competition potato and register from 10 a.m. After that, there will be coffee and cake, starting at 10.30 a.m. and a short presentation by Committee on the proposed allotment move.

On Sunday 13th March there will be a work party starting at 9.30 am to cut pea and bean sticks. (Please come if you can.) Those taking part are entitled to a free bundle!

After the work party finishes, expected to be around 10.30 am., there will be a chance to buy your competition potato and register and then enjoy coffee and cake, along with a repeat of the presentation on the proposed allotment move for those who couldn't make the Saturday. Ann will produce laminated notices.

A plot holder had forwarded details of a local supplier of greenhouse glass. This was noted by the Committee.

The potato **weigh in** will be on Saturday 3rd September at the usual Coffee morning.

The date of the annual barbecue and scarecrow judging is to be decided. Last year it was on Sunday 22nd August 2021. This year's date is to be decided at the next meeting.

(i) Committee Member – Peter Brundish

No report.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Ian said the date for the AGM needs to be decided. It was agreed he will try and book the Corn Exchange for Sunday 2nd October.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 21st March 2022 at 7 pm in Lamperd's Field Potting Shed.

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

Attachments:

Town Council Agenda and Minutes of meeting held on 7.2.22

(secretary@blandfordallotments.co.uk)