

# **Blandford Allotment Society**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Blandford Forum Corn Exchange  
Friday 30 September 2022 at 7pm

## **Meeting opened at 7pm**

### **PRESENT**

Ian Ricketts – Chairman,  
Barbara Marjoram – Plot Allocator  
Virginia Barnard – Webmaster  
Annette Baxter – Seed Secretary  
Peter Brundish – Committee  
Dave Buchan – Committee  
Phil Williams – Committee – Elizabeth Road  
23 – Plot Holders

### **APOLOGIES**

John Harding – Treasurer  
Ann Edwards – Social Secretary  
Plot Holders: Stephen Offer, Stephen Offer, Tim Farrow, Martin Prior, Peter Preen

### **WELCOME**

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM**

A Copy of the 2021, this year's agenda were given to all members present. The 2021 minutes and financial reports were agreed and signed.

Ian thanked everyone on the committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

#### **1. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

When we had our yearly meeting with the council together with Wyatt Homes present, they showed us the latest plans and had put in all that we asked for. These plans will now go to county for approval, so we are still a little way off from moving.

We have paid out £987 for the tractor service and £286.80 for front tyres making a total of £1,256.74. This is the first time in 10 years so hopefully we will be OK for a few years. Services were carried out on the mowers, which we have carried out ourselves, thank you Phil.

Land cleared at Elizabeth Road. Thanks to all for your hard work clearing the site ready for the hazel planting which will happen on Sunday 30 October from 10.30am. This is part of the Queens's Green Canopy initiative. The Mayor will be attending to plant a tree. Do come along and plant a tree; there will be about forty to plant. Bring the family along and make it your family tree.

Town Council

Unfortunately, there was no representation from Blandford Town Council.

## **2. TREASURER'S REPORT**

See copy of Blandford Allotment Society Accounts – 01 July 2021 to 31 May 2022.

The accounts are for 11 months since the Council require these figures in early June. Future accounts will be for 12 months with the year end 31 May.

The servicing of the tractor was a big expense this year. Water bill is expected to be high. The accounts maintain a healthy balance.

Funds in bank account: £3,750.95

Cash in Hand: £362.64

TOTAL: £4,113.59

## **3. PLOT ALLOCATOR/SEED SECRETARY REPORT**

It has been a busy year on both Lamperd's Field and Elizabeth Road sites.

There have been 22 new plot holders at Lamperd's Field site and 7 on the Elizabeth Road site.

There has been a variety of reasons why plot holders have given up their plots:

Now returning to work after lockdown.

Work hours increasing.

Moving out of area.

Age/health related issues.

Care issues.

There have been evictions on both sites due to lack or no cultivation of plots – 6 at Lamperd's Field and 2 at Elizabeth Road.

Over this last year the Wednesday Work party (which tends to be the same people; we have between 2-5 people turn up) have been busy clearing plots. As you can imagine, when people leave their plots, they tend to be in a poor state.

At present, there is a long waiting list, with new people joining every week, 20 for Lamperd's Field and 7 for Elizabeth Road. Some of these will be accommodated over the next few months but others will probably not be able to have a plot until next year.

#### **4. ELIZABETH ROAD REPORT**

There was nothing to report other than the fence posts need repairing which is already in hand.

#### **5. SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT (Read by Virginia Barnard)**

As minute taker, since the last AGM in September 2021, I have taken the minutes of 6 Committee meetings, the last one being on 13th September 2022. All these minutes are easily accessible on our website, [www.blandfordallotments.co.uk](http://www.blandfordallotments.co.uk). Do please take a look.

Coffee Mornings are back on the agenda, and we have had 6. The Annual Barbecue took place in July, and it was a great success thanks to all the volunteers working together. Again, details and photos are on our website, [www.blandfordallotments.co.uk](http://www.blandfordallotments.co.uk).

September 3<sup>rd</sup> was the coffee morning weigh in day for the potato competition.

There is one coffee morning remaining on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Our final gathering in 2022 will be on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at Lamperd's Field. This will be our usual Christmas Nibbles and Grand Raffle

Due to my own ill health, I am sorry to say that I missed out on one or two things, including the Annual barbecue.

Sadly, I am not putting myself up for re-election this year. I have had 7 years on the Committee and enjoyed every minute of it! Hopefully there is a suitable volunteer for this role. Whoever it is will receive support from our amazing Committee, and any hand over information needed will be available from myself.

#### **6. WEBMASTER REPORT**

##### **Website**

The website [[www.blandfordallotments.co.uk](http://www.blandfordallotments.co.uk)] continues to attract a wide variety of viewers. The latest figures show that the website has seen 1094 new visits with each visitors returning 2.6 times. There have been 6944 pages viewed or downloaded in the past year and spending between 15 – 30 minutes on the site. According to the figures Germany are topping the list followed by the USA and Great Britain. The online contact form continues to be very popular generating 23 enquiries regarding plot availability.

However, we have experienced a lot of problems since the migration to the new server and the change of ownership of host. It has taken many weeks to find and correct errors because of the move. Our secretary has complained several times that emails she was sending were not getting through to some plot holders. I found the support services were dreadful and couldn't resolve the problem. I have since found

out that companies like BT Internet/Outlook and Live will not accept mail from our host company, hence the reason emails were not getting through.

In addition, the annual subscription for the hosting and domain name last year was £46 which included the SSL certificate. Next year it is looking like £69 with an extra cost of £50 per year for the SSL certificate. I am searching for an alternative host that we can migrate to before the renewal date at the end of January 2023.

### **Facebook Group**

Facebook community is very popular and now has 129 members. It's lovely to see all the photos comments/questions the plot holder upload.

### **Notice board**

For those people are not into social media, don't forget to look at the notice board in the shed where you will find a lot of information.

### **Allotment mobile telephone (07726 127563)**

If you should have any queries the mobile phone is held either by Ian or Barbara

## **PLOT JUDGING AND AWARDS**

### **Potato Competition:**

Mike Holloway

### **Scarecrow Competition:**

Jan Bradley

### **Best Kept Plots:**

Lamperd's Field Quarter Plot – 1<sup>st</sup> Heather Shepherd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Pearson

Lamperd's Field Half Plot – 1<sup>st</sup> Darrel Adams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Christopher Barnard

Lamperd's Field Full Plot – 1<sup>st</sup> Judith Potts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Malcolm Fowler, 3<sup>rd</sup> Diane Mawer

Elizabeth Road – 1<sup>st</sup> Phil Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amenda & Dave Bealing, 3<sup>rd</sup> Phil Adlem

## **COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

We have two officers stepping down this year. John Harding (Treasurer) Ann Edwards (Social Secretary) Ian thanked both of you for all your hard work over the past few years. We have a nomination for Treasurer – Rosalind Foster. Proposed by Barbara Marjoram and seconded by Virginia Barnard, all in favour. Remaining members of the committee are happy to stand again. Judith Potts proposed, and Dan Foster seconded, all in favour. A potential candidate for the Social Secretary position, Gary Barker has offered to stand. Proposed by Carol Williams seconded by Rosalind Foster, all in favour.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Plot holder Judith Potts gave a vote of thanks to the Committee for all their hard work, especially the Wednesday Working Party who do a brilliant job of keeping the site tidy and in good working order. Special thanks also to outgoing Committee members, John Harding and Ann Edwards, for all their hard work, it is very much appreciated. Sending both heartfelt best wishes for the future.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm with the Chairperson thanking everyone for attending.

30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Blandford Allotment Society Accounts. 1st.July 21 to 31st.  
May 22(11 months only\*)**

<u>INCOME</u>	Year 21/22	Year 20/21	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	Year21/22	Year 20/21	BALANCE
Brought forward	£3,929.20	£2,971.75				
Rental Payments Including £7.19 Donations	£4,878.61	£4,817.86	Blandford TC	£1,186.94	£1,178.71	
			Allotment Phone (inc.£20 top up)	£126.98		
			Website	£8.34	£92.34	
			Water			
			LF	£888.73	£1,660.40	
			ER	£213.86	£452.17	
			N.A.S. Membership	£522.00	£492.00	
Kings seeds	£1,670.75	£2,749.70	Kings Seeds	£1,400.59	£2,301.63	
			Insurance	£313.78	£313.78	
			Tractor insurance	£268.00	£258.00	
			Electric	£195.55	£138.69	
BBQ Raffle	£153.00		BBQ	£100.40		
Miscellaneous (Receipts for manure pea sticks, sales of compost etc.)	£1,277.81	£2,015.54	Miscellaneous (Purchase of sundries, manure,compost for sale etc.)	£1,181.46	£1,440.50	
			Tractor Front Tyres	£268.80		
			Tractor service	£987.94		
			Award Vouchers	£60.00		
			Rotary Mower		£329.00	
Potato comp	£38.00	£57.00	Seed Pots. /Bags	£30.41	£25.43	
			Charity donations	£80.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,947.37</b>	<b>£12,611.85</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£,7833.78</b>	<b>£8,682.65</b>	
			Lloyds Account			£3,750.95
			Cash in Hand			£362.64
			Total Carried forward			£4,113.59

\*Previous years accounts have been for 12 months, In future they will be 12 months, with year end 31<sup>st</sup> May. This is because the Council require these figures in early June