

**WALMLEY ASH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
SITE HUT – SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2019 AT 11:00AM**

Present: AS (Chair & Fundraising), PH (Treasurer), BC (Secretary), LB (Notes), LC, GC, JH and SP

Apologies: JG and RT

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2019

The draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 7th September 2019 were presented to the Committee for approval and confirmation by the Chair.

2. Matters arising not covered on the Agenda

Matters to be discussed were all covered on the agenda.

3. Updates

i. Security cameras

Recorded footage from one of the two cameras deployed on site indicated a person in the proximity of the site hut. This person was not recognised as a plot holder.

ii. National Citizen Scheme

Following the success of a previous project on site, teenagers from the National Citizen Scheme (NCS) would visit again from 13:00 – 14:00 on 9th November 2019 with their supervisor to assess the next project and would return on 23rd November 2019 to complete the task.

iii. Flo Pickering Fund

The contractor appointed to repair the broken fence estimated it would take two days to carry out the remedial work – this was anticipated this would take place on 11th and 12th November 2019.

iv. Walmley First School visit

Walmley First School pupils enjoyed their visit to the site on 6th November 2019 with approximately 90 pupils attending. EM kindly provided cakes. No further visits are scheduled until Spring 2020.

4. Future projects and funding

(Project 1 – Sutton Town Council funding - 2019)

Schools Community Project (gazebo and raised beds)

AS reported that WAAA had been awarded £4,078 towards the cost of the gazebo and raised beds. PH confirmed that this money was held on deposit until the appropriate time for contractors to start working.

(Project 2 – Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust (SCCT) funding - 2020)

(Extension to the car park and refurbishment of the toilets)

AS reported that a funding application of £9,580 was made to SCCT with a decision due in early December 2019. If granted, SCCT's payment method was to settle the invoices directly with the contractors. This would cover costs in relation to clearing ground, preparing a ground base, raised beds, and refurbishing toilets and the roof. If granted, it was unlikely work would commence until Spring 2020 due to weather restrictions.

5. Any other business

i. Chairman

- a) JM recommended displaying another speed sign to remind drivers of speed limits on site – it was suggested the toilet block may be one of the most visible locations for this.
- b) Discussion took place once again on the purchase of a petrol mower. A decision has been deferred - this will be discussed again at a future Committee meeting.
- c) SP had recommended plot holders do not hang the padlock on the middle hole when locking the gate but use the end hole to ensure proper security of the gate.
- d) A plot holder had questioned plot sizing on the site map. BC confirmed the site map was for illustrative purposes only and was not to scale.

ii. Secretary

- e) After research and consultation with other allotment sites, it was determined that it was not viable to purchase and install a polytunnel on site.
- f) Investigations into costs for waste disposal were ongoing.
- g) As all plots now had tenants, there were only two spare gate keys.
- h) Enquiries were being made regarding the possibility of bulk buying compost/manure, for example, from Hirons or Singletons etc. If reasonable, suggestions would be put forward to plot holders to see if there was enough interest.
- i) A trial compost area (adjacent to the fence being repaired) was discussed.

- j) While the water was turned off to the toilet block it was suggested that buckets of water could be left for flushing so that plot holders could continue using the facilities (SP agreed to purchase two).
- k) Confirmation on how the water was turned off, by whom and when was raised by GC. SP and GC agreed to meet at 10:00 on Sunday 10th November 2019 to go through this.
- l) A proposed outing to Malvern Show taking place 7th – 10th May 2020 was discussed. Ticket and transport cost was likely to be in the region of £40.00 per person (depending on numbers and coach size). Once accurate costing's were available these would be put to plot holders and would also be mentioned at the Area 6 meeting on 29th February 2020 to gauge interest in attending.
- m) The possibility of holding a Spring/Summer gathering was discussed rather than attempting a Christmas gathering as venues were often booked up well in advance for Christmas activities.
- n) The padlock code on the spinney gate would be changed for the winter period.
- o) A 5 MPH sign would be obtained after the toilet refurbishment was completed (BC agreed to obtain this).
- p) The BDAC would be holding a meeting at Bordesley Green Allotments at 14:00 on Saturday 16th November 2019.

iii. Treasurer (some information withheld as not for public viewing)

- q) Following the AGM, PH had received cash for manure and 16 people had signed up to the annual subscription for manure giving income for this.
- r) A water invoice for £126.00 had been paid.
- s) All rent monies and paperwork had been submitted to Bernie, The Allotment Officer at BCC. Confirmation had not yet been received.
- t) There was an update on the Current Account.
- u) There was an update on the Deposit Account.
- v) There was an update on the Petty Cash.

6. Date, time and venue of next Committee meeting

The Committee agreed to meet at 11:00 am in the site hut on Saturday 22nd February 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11:45.