

**WALMLEY ASH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
SITE HUT – SATURDAY 20TH JULY 2019 AT 11:00AM**

Present: - AS (Acting Chair & Fundraising), CC (Treasurer), BC (Secretary), GC, LB, LC and SP

In attendance: - JH and RT

Apologies: - PH

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2019

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 22nd June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were approved by the Acting Chair.

2. Matters arising not covered on the Agenda

Matters to be discussed were all covered on the agenda.

3. Updates

i. Plot holder's notice board/beehive

- Provision of an open access notice board for plot holders is ongoing.
- The issue around establishing a beehive on site is ongoing.

ii. Security cameras

Discussion took place regarding locating security cameras on/near the allotment site. The estimated cost for two cameras was c£150.00. These would be moved around the site. BC would inform plot holders and arrange signs for the gates.

iii. Lawnmower

Following previous discussions, AS stated the estimated cost for a petrol lawnmower was c£250.00. It was agreed that a strimmer and brush cutter would also be useful for maintaining the site.

iv. National Citizen Scheme

The National Citizen Scheme participants would be on site at 14:00 on Friday 2nd August 2019 returning on Sunday 4th August 2019 to discuss the plan of action. It would be helpful if as many Committee members as possible could be in attendance for this. The plan would be actioned by the participants on Saturday 10th August 2019. BC confirmed that a Risk Assessment had been approved.

v. Visit by The Shrubbery School on 10th July 2019

AS reported that pupils and staff from The Shrubbery School had visited the site on 10th July 2019.

vi. Visit by Walmley School on 16th July 2019

AS reported that pupils and staff from Walmley School had visited the site on 16th July 2019. Five plot holders had attended the school for refreshments on 17th July 2019.

vii. Welcome meeting on 6th July 2019

AS reported that the welcome meeting on Saturday 6th July 2019 was well attended, mainly by established plot holders, with plenty of food and drinks brought by plot holders for sharing. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of hosting another event – to be discussed further.

viii. Flo Pickering Fund

WAAA to be visited by Clive Birch and the President of BDAC to look at how well the site was managed on Tuesday 23rd July 2019. It was hoped some funding might be made available towards fencing, toilet refurbishment, work on the overflow car park and possibly hard surfacing to the spinney gate which gets very muddy during the winter. AS reported that Clive Birch, BDAC, had indicated the possible release of c£250,000 from the Flo Pickering Fund. It was noted, however, that sites where land had been sold may get first refusal to available money.

ix. Competition results

AS reported that WAAA had won the 'most improved' site category with a prize of £50.00, which was a great achievement as it was WAAA's first entry. SP suggested having an item appear in the Sutton Coldfield Observer and provided contact details.

4. Future projects and funding

(Project 1 – Sutton Town Council funding if successful)

Schools Community Project (gazebo and extension to the car park)

AS reported that a response regarding the funding application was unlikely to be received until around September 2019. AS also confirmed that the pipe by the hut was a water pipe and not a gas pipe.

(Project 2 – Sutton Municipal Charities funding if successful)

(Extension to site hut, installation of electricity and water supply for the site hut and refurbishment of the toilets)

AS reported that, at the time of the meeting, no further information was available.

5. Any other business

i. Chairman

- a) Further to item 5, iv, q on the 22nd June 2019 minutes, the plot holder whose dog had bitten another plot holder had apologised to the plot holder who had since recovered.
- b) A plot holder had experienced an allergic reaction to brambles which had been noted in the accident book.
- c) Preparation for the AGM would need to commence fairly soon to ensure documents and information could be sent out in plenty of time before the meeting for voting purposes etc. Items for the Agenda could include having a WAAA site competition day around the end of July/early August with entrants for best maintained and best newcomer categories for example, an Open Day, and a plot holder meeting/social evening.

ii. Secretary

- d) Enquiries were being made regarding the payment of rent via bank transfer – plot holders registered for online banking would need the Bank Account and Sort Code details.
- e) Prior to two letters of concern being issued regarding non cultivation of plots, the plot holders concerned had been in touch with BC to say they currently had issues but wanted to continue as plot holders.
- f) Two grass cuttings had taken place so far this year with paper work to be completed.
- g) The provision of raised beds could be useful for veterans of the site who may not be able to manage a plot but could manage to use raised beds or be tended by someone using a wheelchair.
- h) A BDAC meeting was taking place at Midlands Art Centre (MAC) on Saturday 25th August 2019, with prize giving at 15:00.

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

- i) CC provided balances for the Business Deposit and current Account. Changes to signatures had been implemented at the Bank – AS, BC and CC were confirmed signatories.
- j) Expenditure for the purchase of £150.00 for 2 cameras was approved.

iv. Committee members

- k) GC suggested that, as plot 27 was small, this may be an ideal location for a polytunnel.
- l) GC enquired if the recently cleared area by the spinney gate could be used as a plot. SP informed the meeting that the area was prone to flooding and had proved to be a 'frost pocket' in winter in the past. SP asked if conversion into a compost area could still be considered for that area.
- m) GC asked for consideration to given to making amendments to the WAAA constitution to introduce the concept of associate membership which would permit partners who were not the named plot holder on the tenancy agreement to fully participate in the functioning of the Association with the possibility of a fee being charged for this. Responsibility to Birmingham City Council would remain with the named plot holder on the tenancy agreement. To be proposed and discussed at the AGM.

6. Date, time and venue of next Committee meeting

The Committee agreed to meet on Saturday 7th September 2019 at 11:00am in the site hut.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:00.