

**WALMLEY ASH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
SITE HUT – SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2019 AT 11:00AM**

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

In attendance: - JH, PH and RT

Apologies: - LC, BC (Secretary) and GC

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2019

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 1st 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. Vacant plots/new plot holders

AS reported that plot 10b had been let leaving only 1 half plot and 1 quarter plot vacant. Discussions at the recent Area 6 BDAC meeting suggested that there were generally fewer vacant plots across sites with fewer people on waiting lists.

ii. Plot holder's notice board/bee hive

- An open access notice board for plot holders to use would be made available – BC to announce this on the website.
- Following the expression of interest in establishing a bee hive on site, the interested plot holder was provided with the criteria that would have to be met before BCC would grant approval in addition to registration with The British Beekeepers Association.

iii. Area of brambles by the spinney gate/fence line

AS reported that GC had put plastic down to suppress weed growth near the gate and that JN had created a path next to the fence line adjacent to his plot to minimise weed growth in that area.

iv. National Citizen Scheme

Further details on the activity selected by the young participants in the National Citizen Scheme would be known when they visit the site on 2nd August 2019.

v. Visit by Beaver group on 2nd May 2019

AS reported that it was unlikely the 21st Sutton Coldfield Beaver group would visit the site this summer.

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

AS reported that pupils and staff from The Shrubbery School would be on site from 14:00 to 15:30 on 10th July 2019.

vii. Visit by Walmley School on 16th July 2019

AS reported that pupils from Walmley School would be on site on 16th July 2019 – times to be confirmed. Allied to this, plot holders were invited to visit the school for refreshments on 17th July 2019.

viii. Welcome meeting on 6th July 2019

A welcome meeting was arranged for 6pm on Saturday 6th July for new and existing plot holders to meet the Committee and hear about recent and future developments. In the absence of catering facilities, plot holders were to bring their own refreshments.

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 an application for funding was submitted on 10th June 2019. It was anticipated that processing may take a few months.

(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 information about the water supply had not yet been received so no further progress had been made in respect of the Project 2 funding application. BC had approached BCC regarding funding from the Flo Pickering Funds for the refurbishment of the toilets and was waiting for a reply.

Any other business

i. Chairman

- a) Discussion took place about BCC not carrying out hedge cutting or cutting of the main grass pathways and about receiving funds from BCC in lieu of these services. AS agreed to purchase a reasonably priced lawn mower as BCC were not maintaining the grass pathways. This would be for communal use and would be covered by insurance.

As grass cutting was necessary around once per fortnight, it would be necessary to set up a rota of responsible operators. There were health and safety concerns regarding hedge cutting.

ii. Secretary (via AS)

- a) BC reported that several plot holders wished to attend the welcome meeting on 6th July 2019.
- b) Plot holders selected for entry into forthcoming competitions had confirmed their willingness to participate.
- c) The results from donkey manure weed killer testing were negative. The recommendation was that manure should be left for one year before use.
- d) The fallen trees were made safe on Friday 21st June 2019.
- e) The site key that was found in the Ashurst Road entrance gate padlock was now with AS.
- f) Letters of concern were to be sent to two plot holders where plots were not actively being cultivated.
- g) After heavy rainfall, there were some issues of flooding on the site. A plot holder had requested taking on another plot but this would not be possible at this time.
- h) The water bill from South Staffordshire Water was received – CC to pay.
- i) Money collected from straw was £5.01.

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

- j) CC provided the following balances to date: The devolved budget from BCC had been paid plus rent collection.
- k) A credit was received from South Staffordshire Water.
- l) A water bill was due to paid to Severn Trent Water.
- m) It was recommended that funds from the devolved budget should be paid into the Current Account.
- n) To improve efficiency of receiving, recording and banking of monies collected from the straw/manure it was suggested that this might be done 'en masse' at the AGM, for example rather than sporadic individual payments.
- o) Payment was required for obtaining more site keys.

iv. Committee members

- p) SP reported he had been contacted by a plot holder on 22nd June 2019 regarding being bitten by a dog which was on a lead. The plot holder had attended the Badger Clinic due to bruising and broken skin.
- q) SP suggested that plot holders experiencing problems opening the spinney gate should ask if a member can assist.

5. Date, time and venue of next Committee meeting

The Committee agreed to meet on Saturday 20th July 2019 at 11:00am in the site hut.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:05.