

Harborne Hill Allotments Committee Meeting Sunday 18 May 2019

Present were - A.Thomson (Chair), A.Garbutt (Sec) , T.Beach (Treas), A.Chebil, B.Coles, S.Coote, D.Dennick, N.Amos, and S.Visser. Apologies were received from J.Cherrington and G.Adams.

Minutes of last meeting - there were no queries and the Minutes were approved. Proposer S.Coote, Seconder T.Beach

Secretary's Report - There have been many happenings since we last met. Another car was stolen, making three in the last year. The gates at the junction of Yateley Road and Harborne Road were damaged, they will be replaced at a cost of about £1000. It is interesting to hear that the BDAC were sought to advise on this. This gate is used by the Contractors that clear the Chad Brook of rubbish, otherwise the gate could have been replaced with fencing at a cost of £400. The Chad Brook at the back of the office was partially blocked by a branch that had been broken by high winds, it was from a tree in a property in Kingscote Road so really it was the property owners responsibility to remove it , but we decided to deal with the problem and remove it ourselves. BCC are supposed to check and clear the stream bed once every 2 month but I have found in the past that this is rarely done. Bee swarms, there has been a couple of interesting afternoons and evenings of swarm collecting, thanks to those who reported them. Ben Madoc reported that 2 weeks ago his tool locker had been broken into and a strimmer stolen. There have been a number of new tenants, all doing well, Graeme Adams 9B, Tarrig 40, Joe Pascale 49b, Jason Weaver 50, Lawrence Shere 64A, Yang 100B and Lyn Brown 100A. Plot 100 that Adrian Corry gave up; after he surrendered the Tenancy I was made aware that the wood for the raised beds on this plot were being removed, so I sped down to find that two of our existing tenants were in the process of taking this wood, when I explained that this plot had already been offered to a new Tenant they put the raised beds back. These two tenants had either asked Adrian if they could have them or he said that they could have them which would have been fine had they taken them before Adrian surrendered the Plot. There are some plots that have greenhouses or sheds on them when a new Tenant takes the Plot on, these cannot then be sold on or given away by the new Tenant, a record of these are on the Rent Roll. The BDAC AGM is on Saturday 1st June which I will attend, anyone is very welcome to attend, The BDAC are now very much part of the decision-making process, anything to do with Allotments, they are short of Committee Members and are seeking volunteers. Barbara Smith the Secretary is very good, she is asking for a £10 contribution to the Allotment Show which I believe we should agree to pay. I thank John Cherrington for his great work in replacing some of the tool locker doors, they do a lot to improve the image of the site. I am spending a night in the QE at the end of June to have a heart pacemaker fitted which so I will not be driving or lifting for a while. There is a planned visit of a work party of Year 8s for 4 days starting on Monday 15th July, so we will have to have a think about that. We await a new Management Agreement. Councillor John O'Shea is now the Cabinet member responsible for Allotments in place of Sharon Thomson.

This report was accepted, Proposer N Amos, Seconder D Dennick

Treasurer's Report - it was reported that we have a healthy balance. it was explained that the Travis Perkins bill was for timber for door frames. We have received about £500 from BCC as rent collection commission but have yet to receive the Maintenance Money. This report was accepted, Proposer A.Chebil, Seconder S.Visser

Recruitment of Committee Members - it was agreed that we should recruit more Committee Members.

Visit of Year 8s 15/07 to 18/07 - tasks - painting shed doors and sheds, clearing footpaths of debris, sowing wild floor seeds on Plot 7A, trimming bushes.

Website - Dave Dennick reported that we have a steady number of "hits". It was agreed that we did not need any further security as suggested by "Go Daddy". He appealed for more contributions.

Site Improvements - A further 10 doors for tool lockers will be purchased plus timber for door frames. Ann Chebil sought a solution to the failing edge of the road by Ruth's plot, it was agreed that we should try and solve that ourselves. Dave Dennick suggested a wildflower plot for Plot 7A.

AOB - Dave Dennick raised the question of what Slug Pellets we should be stocking, it was left that Singletons will be asked for suggestions.

Date of next Committee meeting - Sun 15 Sept 2019