

## **Bidford On Avon Allotment Association**

Allotment Committee meeting 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023, held at Bidford Community Library

Attendees: April, Kirsty, Jackie, Wayne, Phil

Apologies: Paul, Kirsty

Due to a change of employment Wayne Gould has tendered his resignation from committee. We thank him for his input to committee and maintenance work on site.

### Previous minutes

The bees were moved 29/06/23.

Tennis Club gate lock requires replacement soon.

Community Plot. Due to other commitments for committee members the BBQ and competition will not take place this year, will continue to be planned for next year.

### 1. Treasurer's report:

- a) Bank statement: £2,461.61
- b) Rent outstanding: £25.50 (one plot holder)
- c) Payments due to Parish Council: £91.15
- d) Costs to allotment: £0
- e) Deposits held: £1375
- f) Association monies: £995.46

Does 'deposits held' balance get adjusted appropriately when a plot is vacated i.e. non-refundable deposit should be transferred to general fund. ACTION – Item for agenda of next meeting.

### 2. Allocation status and tenancies

Waiting list: 8

Vacant to allocate: 3

1 termination request received today (not included above)

### 3. Tenant Issues

Non-payers are being chased and conversations are in hand for some downsizing and moving of plots.

ACTION: Kirsty

One tenant to be spoken with personally regarding downsizing.

ACTION: April

### 4. Plot inspections:

Letter 1 - Responses are being received and dealt with following previous inspection letters.

Letter 2 – has been sent to one tenant.

## 5. Site Maintenance

3x taps require fixing – community plot, bumblebee tap and tennis court.

ACTION: Phil Wayne and Wayne \*\*following meeting taps have been repaired by committee.

\*\*Following the meeting Jackie checked with Parish Clerk and taps repairs fall under PC, however it was advised the contractor would likely say he'd fix them when they are turned off. Agenda item for next meeting to discuss.

## 6. Security:

Following the recent shed break-ins there have been no reports of items stolen. Wayne advised it looks like a crowbar was used.

Jackie advised the drawdown request to fund a solar security camera has gone through PC Facilities WG and will be presented to full council on 21/08/23 for ratification.

Having read the full descriptions of the camera packages April will investigate further which is best value.

Wayne suggested dummy cameras and signage should also be put up. Suggested signage points are back track gate, youth club gate, cemetery gate/near bowling club and cemetery car park gate. The suggested signs would be A1 in white and yellow.

ACTION: Agenda item for next meeting, when outcome of camera funds request is known.

The back track gate lock has been left set to the code.

ACTION: Secretary to add to general catch-up email tenants to ensure the lock is turned at all times.

## 7. Questionnaire

Responses will be analysed and a full report sent round, but a few highlights:

Taps – to be replaced promptly.

Site toilet.

Wildlife and pest control methods e.g. restriction of herbicides.

Promote organic growing.

Water access.

Shipping container for loan equipment.

Using the community plot for social gatherings – a lot of useful comments about how tenants feel about meet-ups.

Positive comments around using the community plot for sharing and swapping.

## 8. Community Plot

Gates onto the plot are planned for the front and left sides to allow wide access. It is suggested the shed be moved to the slabbed area, but these would need to be levelled before moving.

Kirsty has access to pallet collars potentially for use on the plot, to be placed to the back of the plot. \*\*since the meeting the plot has been strimmed and there is a bindweed issue to be dealt with before placing pallet collars.

Wayne can access pallets for building bays.

The creation action plan will continue to be worked on, along with maintenance work on the plot.

## 9. Community BBQ

On hold until next year due to committee personal commitments.

## 10. Allotment Competition

On hold until next year due to committee personal commitments.

## 11. Next Inspection & Meeting:

Inspection - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Meeting – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September.  
This meeting will focus on the AGM preparation and reports.

AGM is set for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, 1900hrs at The Parish Room. Notices will be put out in good time.

## AOB:

Backtrack water supply. Phil has done some pricing work and the cost would be more than £2500 for materials alone. Given the small number of plots that would access this it is unlikely sufficient volunteers would come forward to make carrying out the labour ourselves feasible. Jackie suggested we should be pushing rainwater harvesting anyway. It was agreed that security is the main issue affecting most of the site and should be our focus currently.

Dates for inspections and meetings will be set prior to the AGM and put on the website. Meetings to be held at Bidford Community Library, subject to availability of keyholder.