

Bidford On Avon Allotment Association

Special General Meeting held at The Parish Rooms, Bramley Way, Bidford-on-Avon
Held 21st April 2024 at 1900hrs

Committee Attendees: Jackie Williams, Philip Harling, Kirsty Bax
Twenty-three further Members. The Parish Clerk and five non-members also present.

Welcome

Mr Harling opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and explained that since the AGM in October 2023 due to resignations the Committee is no longer quorate. Due to this the Constitution required this meeting to be convened for the way forward to be agreed.

1. Election of Meeting Chair

Mr Harling invited volunteers to chair the meeting. Mrs Fleming proposed Mr Harling, which the members agreed unanimously.

2. Current position regarding the management of the Site

The Association was set up to assist the PC with managing the Site and give Members a voice in how it is managed and input on improvement to the Site. The allotments are currently overseen by the Committee which collects rent to pass to the Parish Council (PC). From the rent the Committee and PC organise water, skips and other expenditure. Deposits are ringfenced to ensure funds are available for potential return when plots are vacated.

A Member expressed should the Parish Council (PC) take over running of the site may become too official; the Association has more personal contact as the Committee is fellow Members.

3. Consider if there is a desire to continue self managing the Site

The meeting voted unanimously to continue to self manage the Site

4. Decision consequent to Item 3

Item 3 having resulted in a resolution to continue to self manage the Site:

Appointment of Committee

The Chair asked for expressions of help from the Members. Five Members offered to become involved in some way to move the work forward and Mr Harling, Mrs Williams and Mrs Bax expressed willingness to continue on Committee and put themselves forward for the positions of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The Chair asked if there were any objections – no objections. The Chair explained that under the current Constitution the Committee must number a minimum of four to be quorate and would require a Vice-Chair. Mr Emmet offered to take the position of Vice-Chair.

There being no further volunteers The Chair asked for the Members to vote on the proposed Committee, which was accepted unanimously.

The Chair asked if Members are happy for Committee to co-opt as needed, or should any prospective appointments be brought to a Member's meeting. A Member queried a non-Member holding a named position on Committee.

After some discussion the Resolution was the Committee can co-opt from within Members of the Association.

Updating of Required Documents

The Chair advised the Members there are a number of policy and procedure documents need to be drawn up, along with a new Tenancy Agreement. Also insurance needs to be put in place to protect the Committee and Members.

Having carried out this work for previous allotment sites he offered to lead on this. The documents will be brought before the Members for approval as the work progresses. The Members accepted this offer unanimously.

The Chair confirmed the PC will be communicated with throughout the process as necessary.

A Member queried there is no longer a nominated Parish Councillor attending meetings. The Parish Clerk explained she is now the contact point and whether PC attend meetings will depend on the level of independence the Association wants moving forward.

5. Not applicable as Item 4b not opted for.

6. Any Other Related Business

There being no further business the Chair thanked the Members for their time and closed the meeting at 19:47hrs.