

# Royal Paddock Allotment Committee Meeting minutes

13 March 2019, The Railway, Teddington, 7.45 pm

Present:

David Harnden (Chair)	Jenny Bourne	Theo Christophers
Gill Hiley	David Lainchbury	Karen Saywell
Martin Scotton	Andrew Stanley (Treasurer)	Anne Wingrove
		David Laughrin (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Nick Baylis; Dylan Baxendale; Christine Thorpe

1.	<p><b>Minutes of Last Committee Meetings, Matters Arising and Action Register.</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting on 16 January 2019 were approved.</p> <p>The Action Register was reviewed noting the record of progress to date. The following additional points were noted:</p> <p><i>Item 2 Project Payment Procedures:</i> Nick had indicated that the procedures would be activated when the first payments were made;</p> <p><i>Item 4 Work Parties:</i> It was agreed it was too soon yet to organise a work party on containing the manure area, but in the meantime David H was working with Chris Pocock on planning one on maintenance of the Compost toilet.</p> <p><i>Item 9 Application and Membership Fees:</i> Gill had completed calculations on the effect of raising the application and membership fee to £25 as a way of recouping the loss from the agreed reduction of charge for upgrading from one half plot to a full plot. Such a change would recoup the loss in about three years. But there was a further anomaly worth looking at because of the different treatment of joint ploholders with the same address or different addresses. The current rules were complex and it might be better to introduce a separate joint application and membership fee. Gill was thanked for her work and it was agreed that she should circulate a set of proposals on all these issues for consideration at the next Committee meeting in May.     <b>Action: Gill</b></p> <p><i>Item 12 Pump Signs:</i> Gill and Jenny had been unable so far to resolve a problem over wording on pump signs, and David H agreed to talk to those concerned to agree on final wording both on the signs and on related information notices on the shed by the entrance gate, in the Seed Store Café and on the website. Advice had been taken on sufficiently durable pine posts for the signs once the wording was agreed.     <b>Action: David H</b></p> <p><i>Item 13:</i> An internet search had shown that no manual shredders capable of meeting allotment needs were on the market, and therefore the only alternatives</p>
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	<p>were electric machines using a generator or petrol machines priced from around £700 to £2000. Committee members had pointed out that the environmental, maintenance and health and safety requirements for such machinery would be highly problematic. The Committee concluded it would not be worthwhile to pursue further work on these options.</p> <p><i>Item 13 Donation of Spare Plants to Community:</i> Jenny agreed to review local options and put a suitable notice on the noticeboard by the entrance gate. <b>Action: Jenny</b></p> <p><i>Item 16 Date and Location of the AGM:</i> The Committee was not convinced of the case for a change given cost and convenience issues but would review again later in the year.</p> <p><i>Item 17: Pump Installation and Documentation:</i> David H agreed to talk about this to Ray Hulm. <b>Action: David H</b></p> <p><i>Item 19 Website Information:</i> It was confirmed that the plan agreed with the website developer was for an approach which ensured one single set of easily amendable and printable information and regulations.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Andrew Stanley presented his Treasurer's report previously circulated to the Committee together with Karen Saywell's helpful update of the longer term financial plan. This had been updated to include a contingency reserve. The RPA finances remained healthy and the current projects were affordable. But work was needed on refining the arrangements at the bank for joint authorisation of significant payments on behalf of the RPA. Andrew suggested that there should be several members of the Committee registered with the bank to countersign authorisations he would initiate for sums over an agreed amount. The Committee agreed to the nomination of David H, Karen, Anne and Nick for this purpose. Andrew would initiate the necessary action with the bank. Andrew and Karen were thanked for their work on this together with former Treasurer, Carol.</p> <p><b>Action: Andrew</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Tracks Project</b></p> <p>Gill Hiley reported that the proposed start date was 18 March and all Plotholders had been informed of this in an email. A copy of the email would also be put on the entrance gate shed. It had been agreed to pay for removal of spoil from the first phase of the work if this could not be used elsewhere on the tracks.</p> <p>In a brief discussion, Gill, Nick, Gray and John were thanked for their work so far and as the project progressed. It was not felt the limited track access would necessitate a delay in the plot inspection programme.</p>

<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Replacement of Incinerator Project</b></p> <p>Theo Christophers reported that he had made a number of approaches to contractors about preparing the site for the proposed new incinerator. He had had one helpful estimate and was hoping to get two more in the next two weeks so a final decision could be made.</p> <p>The Committee thanked Theo for his work and agreed to this approach.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Action : Theo</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Social Activities Plan for 2019</b></p> <p>Jenny Bourne and all those involved were thanked for the successful result of the Seedy Sunday event. Jenny reminded the Committee of the next two events which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz : 17 March</li> <li>• Plant Sale: 5 May</li> </ul> <p>Jenny indicated that the Committee were still seeking ways of encouraging more people to contribute seedlings for the sale and were reluctant to introduce commercially grown plants. It was suggested that a general email circulation encouraging more seedling contributions should be made.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Action: Jenny and David H</b></p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Sub-Committee on Water Supply</b></p> <p>David H asked for suggestions on those who might form a sub-group that he would chair on reviewing the possible ways of improving the long term sustainability of the RPA site if water supplies became more problematic in future. This might cover ways of avoiding unnecessary watering, ways of collecting and storing water, collective purchasing of supplies and providing information to ploholders.</p> <p>Possible sub-group members suggested included Andrew, Ben, Christine, and Ray. Jenny volunteered to contact the RHS to see if they might be able to provide a speaker for a workshop on effective water use and conservation on a suitable occasion in June.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Action: David H and Jenny</b></p>

<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>(a) Jenny reported on the latest information about a planned ban on future use of certain types of slug pellets from 2020. Ferric phosphate pellets were to be encouraged as less harmful to nature. She would put an information notice about this on the shed. <b>Action: Jenny</b></p> <p>(b) Gill raised a case of whether any exceptions should be made to the normal rules about new and returning ploholders needing to live in the current catchment area. It was agreed exceptions should not be made to this rule and a refund of application fee taken in error should be made. It would be permissible for existing ploholders who no longer lived in the area to upgrade from a half to a full plot, but otherwise the catchment area rule should be enforced. Any problem cases encountered by the duty Committee member should be referred to the Committee before a deposit is taken.</p> <p>(c) Anne reported that two new volunteers had agreed to join the Seed Store café rota but that there were still occasional days when it was difficult to identify enough volunteers to keep the café operating. All Committee members were asked to encourage volunteers to contact Anne.</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at the Railway in Teddington and should take place on 15 May at 7.45pm.</p> <p><b>The meeting ended at 9.15 pm</b></p>