

Royal Paddocks Allotment Committee meeting minutes

15 January 2020

Present:

David Harnden – Chair	Jenny Bourne	Theo Christophers
Gill Hiley	Chris Knight	David Lainchbury
Robert McIntyre	Martin Scotton	Christine Thorpe
Andrew Stanley	Anne Wingrove	David Laughrin - Secretary

Apologies: Dylan Baxendale; Karen Saywell

1.	Minutes of Last Meetings The Minutes of the meetings at the end of 2019 were agreed subject to a correction to the Minutes of the AGM to register that in the Social programme there had been a Quiz in March.
2.	Matters Arising Andrew Stanley updated the Committee on the latest situation on signatories to the Plottolders' Committee Account. Because of problems at the bank, the full range of signatories agreed last year had still not been activated, but Andrew was about to instigate another mandate to ensure that Nick Baylis and Carol Dukes, who had left the Committee, were removed as signatories and Karen Saywell and Anne Wingrove were added, in addition to Andrew and David Harnden. Dual signatories would be required for payments over £100, but Andrew asked the Committee to give him sole authority to approve individual petty cash payments below £100. This was agreed. Andrew also indicated that the volunteers from St John's Church who had taken on tasks on the site on Love Hampton Wick weekend in 2019 were keen to return again in 2020 in June. Arrangements would be made with Karen Saywell as before. The Committee welcomed this. Action: Karen Saywell
3.	Incinerator Project David Harnden reported that, following the Management Committee, further discussion had taken place with Councillors and it seemed that the position on the site about use of incinerators would be governed by statutory nuisance regulations. He was to talk to the Council's Air Quality Manager to discuss the likely view that would be taken of a replacement incinerator on site and the view on the use of the current incinerator. If possible, Theo Christophers would also attend this meeting. A view could then be taken on the value for money of the proposed project. Action: David Harnden and Theo Christophers
4	Access to Site for Out of Catchment Area Applicants In a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Committee's rules on the catchment area for the site should not be waived unless there were truly exceptional circumstances. Keys to the site should not be issued to those outside the catchment area. It was

	<p>noted that it was possible for individual Plotolders to request help on their plots from friends provided that they were not sub-letting, but the Plotolders concerned would be responsible for allowing access and extra keys could not be issued. Similarly, non-qualifying applicants could volunteer to work on the Community Plot with access given by the Community Police as appropriate. The Secretary would pass this on to those enquiring.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Social Committee Plans</p> <p>Jenny Bourne reported on the Social Committee's plans for events in 2020. These included:</p> <p>9 February: Plotholders' Question Time 15 March : Seedy Sunday 17 May: Plant sale 13 September: Autumn Show</p> <p>In addition, Jenny was talking to Guy Barter of the RHS and to Plotholder Ben Wilkins about possible talks. Ben had offered a talk and demonstration on "<i>How to Make Your Plot Smarter and Greener</i>" and this might be timetabled for 15 March to coincide with Seedy Sunday.</p> <p>Jenny indicated that she would be seeking approval for expenditure on two new gazebos for use at 2020 events</p> <p>Jenny also pointed out that in June 2021 the Royal Paddocks Site would be celebrating its Centenary and it would be helpful to seek ideas from Plotholders on how this should be marked and celebrated.</p> <p>Jenny's plans were enthusiastically welcomed and the Social Committee were thanked for their efforts.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Café News</p> <p>Anne Wingrove reported that the Xmas Café had been a great success raising £220 for Allotment funds from coffee, cakes and mulled wine. The situation for 2020 for the Seed Store Sunday café looked healthy with sufficient volunteers coming forward, though more were always welcome to bake or serve or both. She was also looking at seeking approval for purchase of some sun umbrellas, given the hot days experienced last summer and autumn. This was supported as was her suggestion of some tidying up of the patio area, where moss and weeds were making it slippery at times.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Anne Wingrove</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Work Parties</p> <p>David Harnden suggested a range of tasks for work parties in 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to the patio area outside the Seed Store, on which he would consult Nick Baylis; • Finishing the dead hedge areas by the nature area and beehives; • Completing work on the Entrance Shed guttering and painting of noticeboards;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing Pump Signage; • Fixing guttering on lock-ups and tidying wild area there in accordance with guidance on encouraging wildlife. <p>David would seek volunteers once the weather was warmer and more settled.</p>
8	<p>Other Business</p> <p>(a) Fruit tree Area : Jenny Bourne reported on work being done by her, Ruth Walker, Christine Thorpe, Martin Scotton and other volunteers on fruit tree management in the wild area next to Plot 18.</p> <p>(b) Web Forum: David Harnden sought views on a Plotholder's suggestion of the creation of a Web Forum to enable plotholders to seek advice, offer swaps of plants and crops, and share knowledge This could be set up at no cost with Mark Buckley providing the service. In a brief discussion, there were mixed views on the value and likely use of such a site as opposed to exchanging ideas at social events and with plot neighbours. But it was agreed that provided suitable safeguards could be mapped out in strict rules for Web Forum Etiquette and Moderators could be identified to keep a watchful eye on the site, it was worth initiating a year's trial. Andrew and David P indicated that they would be prepared to be moderators for this trial period. The Committee expressed its gratitude for all Mark Buckley does for the RPA. Action: David H</p> <p>(c) On Line Payments: Chris Knight sought reassurance that on-line payments were not depriving the site of too much revenue because of charges for the system. In a brief discussion it was agreed that the quick and easy process and saving of administrative effort made this good value.</p> <p>(d) Long Term Funding Projection: Andrew Stanley circulated the revised long term funding projection kindly produced by Karen Saywell. This demonstrated that there was a healthy funding margin for the likely projects in view. Given the funding situation, further work on the roads might be sensible in 2020 or 2021 and this might usefully be discussed at the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>(e) Donation to Riding for the Disabled: Chris Knight suggested that a donation should be made to the Riding for the Disabled Charity to show appreciation for the supply of manure from the Park Lane Riding Stables facilitated by PC Nick Cheadle of the Community Plot. The Committee agreed to a donation of £100 for 2020 and agreed that further annual donations should be voted on by the committee each year. It was also suggested that the very helpful efforts of the police should be recognised by a suitable donation of something they needed for the Community Plot.</p> <p>(f) Floating Applicant for a Plot: The application of site rules to an applicant for a plot within the catchment area but with no proof of permanent residence was discussed. It was agreed that the rule on proof should not be waived.</p>

Next Meeting: Wednesday 18 March at 7.45 at the Railway, Teddington.