

Royal Paddock Allotment Committee Meeting minutes

15 May 2019, The Railway, Teddington, 7.45 pm

Present:

David Harnden (Chair)	Dylan Baxendale	Nick Baylis
Gill Hiley	David Lainchbury	Karen Saywell
Martin Scotton	Andrew Stanley (Treasurer)	Christine Thorpe
Anne Wingrove		David Laughrin (Secretary)

Apologies: Jenny Bourne; Theo Christophers

1 .	<p>Minutes of Last Committee Meetings, Matters Arising and Action Register.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting 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 1 Work Parties:</i> David H was organising a work party for the w/e of 19 May.</p> <p><i>Item 5 Application and Membership Fees:</i> Gill was thanked for her work looking at different options for amending the membership fee for couples. After a short discussion it was agreed to leave the current arrangements in place.</p> <p><i>Item 6 Pump Signs:</i> The wording had been agreed and action was in hand to erect the new notices.</p> <p><i>Item 9 Water Sub-Group:</i> The sub group had had a useful first meeting and agreed a plan of further work.</p> <p><i>Item 17: Pump Installation and Documentation:</i> Ray Hulm had agreed to work with David H on an installation and video..</p> <p><i>Item 13 Website Information:</i> Gill had nearly completed work on the revised material for the website working with the webmaster. It was agreed that it would be useful to add one more topic to the material to cover beekeeping.</p> <p>Action: Gill</p>
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<p>2</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Andrew Stanley presented his Treasurer's report as previously circulated to the Committee. The financial position remained healthy thanks to the continued efforts of the café team and the successful social events programme. Lloyds Bank had been slow to adjust the arrangements for banking but action as agreed for appropriate authorisation of expenditure with two signatories was in hand. Andrew was thanked for his work.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Tracks Project</p> <p>Nick reported on the successful completion of the first phase of the roads project. The contractor had worked effectively and there had been some £1000 saving on the initial plan. Gill, Nick, Gray and John were thanked for their hard work to see the project through. A new area for manure delivery had also been helpfully developed.</p> <p>One remaining issue was the speed of traffic on the site. The need for signage would be reviewed and Nick should be emailed with reports of any fast driving on the site.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Replacement of Incinerator Project</p> <p>David H reported that Theo had not yet been able to get a second quote for preparing the site for the proposed new incinerator. He hoped to get one more quote in the next week so that a final decision could be made quickly out of Committee by email circulation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action : Theo</p>

5 Inspection Report

Karen reported on the work of the inspection team completed from 1 to 7 April. After considerable work from the 12 volunteers 19 letters of encouragement and 8 thirty day warnings had been issued. 5 people had been asked to replace missing plot numbers. Responses were still being received but progress had been promised and several people had decided to end their tenancies.

Karen had identified 4 cases where senior ploholders might benefit from some help with heavy manual work and action was in hand to link volunteers from the local church and the Community Plot with the relevant ploholders. Karen was seeking volunteer committee members to help supervise this work in late June and David H, Andrew and David P offered assistance. Karen would finalise plans and get an indication of the nature of the help on offer. **Action; Karen**

6 Social Activities Report

David H reported in Jenny's absence on the recent successful Plant Sale which had raised some £300 net for the site funds. There had also been a useful workshop on use of herbs and native plants from a medicinal herbalist. Thanks were recorded to Andrew, David L and Gill for help on the day of the plant sale, to Anne and all her volunteers for the continued good work of the café team and especially to Jenny for all her tireless work across the range of social activities.

7	<p>Commercial Activities on Site</p> <p>Anne introduced a brief discussion on the Committee's approach to commercial activities on site. It was agreed that such activities should be discouraged unless there was an educational element involved. Prior approval would be required for such activities and the normal regulations of the allotments would need to be observed, taking account of health and safety and legal liabilities. The Secretary would make this clear to existing ploholders wishing to use the site in this way.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: David P</p>
8	<p>Policy on Polytunnels</p> <p>Dylan introduced a brief discussion on the erection of polytunnels on site. The existing regulations provide that these should not exceed 15 by 10 by 7 feet and only one such construction was allowed on a plot. The Committee indicated that it did not wish to change these rules at present. Dylan would explain the rules to ploholders who were concerned about individual plots.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Dylan</p>
9	<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) It was agreed that the Committee would have no objection to the Community Plot opening a twitter account in support of their activities.(b) The Committee agreed to the purchase of an additional picnic table at a cost of £250.(c) It was noted that a fish eye mirror at the exit of the site would not get local authority approval but safety measures at the exit and entrance would be kept under review.(d) Measures to minimise local disagreements on site were discussed including differences over paths and use of radios. David H would arrange discussions with ploholders if necessary.

	<p>(e) The Committee reviewed the access arrangements for the Community Plot and agreed to maintain the existing arrangements.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 17 July at 7.45pm. The venue would be decided nearer the time.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.45 pm</p>