

Committee Meeting minutes 4th May 2014

Apologies from Jenny, Chris and Derek

What was the progress with the revised Constitution?

Angie advised that it is nearly ready but wanted to see if there were any other alterations/suggestions before completing. These suggestions would then be emailed to all Committee Members to check ready for next meeting, where it is hoped it can then be completed.

Allotment website

Is now up to date.

Outstanding rent

Has now been collected.

Vacant Plots

Although there are 2 vacant plots at present, Wessex Water may need to lay a surface water pipe across them. It was felt that the plots should not be offered until the work had been completed.

Darren asked if we would try to seek compensation from Wessex if this happens. It was agreed to wait for the work to commence.

Plot Confusion

There seems to have been a misunderstanding with the extra plot that Doug has been attending to. He believed it was his on a permanent basis but was advised by Larry that he could have the plot free for one year as there was no one on the waiting list.

Waiting list

There are 3 people on the list at present.

Composters

The posts are in position but may need a work party to put the final slabs into position. Les mentioned that the Council were working at the Gorse Covert with a Digger and would enquire if they could come to Allotment to lift them in at the same time.

Rubbish

What was happening with the general rubbish at the allotment? It was agreed that it was not nice for people to have to walk home with black sacks of rubbish from the allotment. It was also felt that this may stop Committee Members running the shop if they had to take Allotment rubbish home.

A skip was suggested but the fee would be too high.

Les will make enquires to Council re a fortnightly black bin collection.

Spare Land

What was happening with the spare land at the bottom?

Council are paying for it to be re-instated. As it is not suitable for growing crops, it will be grassed over. A Community Orchard was suggested but the Council Vetoed it. Les also to source a farmer with a tractor to plough land, Les will ask Council if they could do this when lifting in slabs in as they were working in the area at the Gorse Covert.

International Bring and Share Evening

Although there was only a small turnout – it was enjoyed by those who attended.

NGS Open Day

Did anyone know the date? Mike needs to know, so he can get the website updated. It was agreed that an early meeting would be held regarding both NGS Open Day and Patchway Festival. This will be arranged once Jenny is back.

For the Festival, it was suggested that a nice sign be made saying "This way for Cream Teas" etc.

Main gates must be kept locked at all times to prevent the general public using the Allotment as a Public parking space or a cut through.

A.O.B

1) Flymo is still broken – Can we now buy a new one?

We were given a grant by the Council for the Composters. As the work was done by a Committee workforce, there are still some funds left over. We are expecting a cheque from the Council. Norman will price up the cost of a new Flymo at B&Q.

Les is also pricing up cost of having Lawnmower repaired. He has found a company at Avonmouth and is planning to take the mower there.

2) Machinery left at Allotment.

Any machinery left at allotment, should be named. The machines should have either a tag or painted name on them and logged in book. This is not just to stop other people using your own personal belongings; it is also for Insurance purposes. There can be no come back if an item is stolen, if it has not been logged as in the container.

3) Plot availability – can this be advertised further afield?

No. The Council have stated that the plots need to be available for Residents living in close proximity e.g. Patchway, Charlton Hayes. It also gets very complicated involving other Councils with fees etc.

4) Awards for the best kept plot.

Alan enquired what happened to the 2 shields/cups that were to be presented for the best kept plots? They may have been given to the Treasurer when Larry did his hand over, plan to check with Derek on his return.

It was suggested that these shields/cups could be voted on by the Public at the Patchway Festival for the best turned out plots by means of a ballot box.

5) Gas Barbeques – could they be used on Members plots?

No, for safety reasons and Insurance purposes.

6) Poly tunnel

Although it seemed a great idea at the time, it is not viable to have a poly tunnel on the site. When it was looked into, there were too many regulations to be met and the cost kept rising.

7) It was also mentioned about a plot near the gates being covered in Dandelions. Les felt it may be good to hand out the 10 top tips for plot holders as a reminder to all concerned.