

PRETORIA ROAD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 4th JANUARY 2015 AT THE ALLOTMENT SITE

The 1st item was the adoption of the minutes from our previous two meetings in September and November 2014. These were adopted unanimously by the full Committee.

The 2nd item on the agenda was a discussion and overview of Chris Brooker's application for membership of the Society. Larry read out an overview of the events since our October 2014 AGM and members were given the opportunity to speak on the matter. A vote was held, the question put to the vote was "Do we accept Mr Brooker's application for membership of the Society?"

Those in favour = 0

Those against = 10

The decision was therefore to unanimously reject Mr Brooker's application to become a member.

The 3rd item was Repairs and renovations to the lean-to shed adjoining the main allotment shed. The Secretary (Through Norman) has made an application for funding to Severn View Community Action Group and three quotations for the work to be undertaken were submitted to them, along with the formal application. Norman reported that he anticipates that the Severn View Committee will vote on our application shortly. We now await news from them.

The 4th item on the agenda was an update on plans to create two composting areas on our site. Les is looking into the possibility of a contractor to prepare the two areas, as this would involve some quite heavy work and needs to be properly prepared and executed to ensure that the bays are long lasting and robust. It was proposed and agreed that the Society should pay for this out of existing funds. Larry has produced initial drawings of the proposed bays and their construction. We await further news and developments.

The 5th item was Fund raising. The Committee agreed that we will support Patchway festival in July. It was suggested that we place sample prices of plots for visitors to see when they attend various events. This should be fairly easy to arrange. Mike volunteered to produce a calendar of events, to be displayed at the site. Suggestions were forthcoming, including an Easter fund raiser and a firework display and barbecue. Terry suggested an annual summer get together for plot holders and members. These will all be looked at and the Committee will make the appropriate decisions.

The 6th item on the agenda was concerning a suggestion from Larry, that non- plot holders who wished to become members should sign an agreement in the same way that plot holders do, when taking on a plot. Larry has produced a draft of an agreement to cover this. This was shown to the Committee and they were asked to vote on whether this should be introduced. This was voted on by a show of hands and was unanimously agreed upon. It was further suggested that all future applications for a plot and or for membership should be sanctioned by a vote from the whole Committee before being accepted. This could be done via email in order to avoid keeping a potential plot holder or member waiting. However, if sanctioned by both the Chairman and the Secretary, the application may be allowed without resorting to a full vote. This was also agreed upon.

The 7th item on the agenda was an updated handbook. It was agreed by the Committee that the current handbook needs amending in several respects and Larry has produced a draft of the necessary alterations. Angela is to produce a provisional version for approval by the Committee.

The 8th item was the sudden loss of our website. We were given no warning of the closure of the site and when Jon Hosgood was asked about it his response was “I've tried to maintain the site and keep members informed but the committee doesn't seem to be too interested and so I've taken the website down”.

This statement does not hold water, as Mike and Roger have frequently provided Jon with new items and updates for the website throughout the year and Jon has never once indicated that he was unhappy with the committee or the way in which the site was used. The Committee discussed the loss of the site and it was suggested that we leave the matter of a replacement in abeyance for now. This was generally agreed with. Mike and Roger are to look into the costs and any work involved in setting up our own website. They will report to the committee at our next meeting.

Any other Business.

Larry raised the matter of closing the shed for a few days, to allow the floor painting to proceed and give time for the treatment to cure properly. This was agreed upon. The money to pay for the paint is to come out of allotment funds.

Also agreed upon was that the purchase money for concrete blocks and posts for the new compost bays, would come from allotment funds.

The final matter was regarding the sad death of Chris Murphy. Anyone who wished to make a donation was invited to do so.