

## **Pretoria Road Allotment Society**

### **Minutes of the committee meeting held at the allotment site 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**Apologies for absence:** Angie Booth & Roger Fussell

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The minutes from the last meeting (3rd January 2016) were adopted and signed off by the chairman.

**Item 1.** Roger Fussell asked for a progress report in respect of our extraordinary meeting where 5 points was agreed as per the minutes. Les was to approach PTC to ask if they are willing to help with signage costs and provision.

Larry has obtained a quote for professional signage which would include installation for a total cost of £1700 including VAT. There would be a number of different signs which would come under headings of the following: Welcome sign, (PTC to give agreement), No tipping of waste sign, Green waste sign, Wood for burning & water harvesting signs, for water usage. Les has been able to confirm that the PTC has approved a grant of £500 for the Allotment site and Les will ask PTC if the payment for the signage could go through the council so the VAT could be re claimed which could give us quite a saving on costs.

**Item 2.** Larry asked for a date to be arranged for the removal of the existing compost bays. Also the need to arrange a date for the site tidy up, plus having a regular refuse collection. Mike S has asked the farmer who delivered a load of horse manure on the weekend would he give us a quote for the removal of compost bays and spreading the compost over the designated area of land not being used for allotments. The farmer agreed £100 to complete this task and the committee agreed to pay the farmer the amount he required. Mike S, will contact farmer and agree a date for the completion which should be in a few weeks time. The farmer asked if any more manure loads are required. The committee felt no more would be required.

On the site tidy up and refuse collection, Larry has obtained quotes and the committee agreed for a six month fortnightly refuse collection, starting from April and finishing in September at a cost of £163 for six months. This could be paid on a direct debit. A skip was agreed to be arranged for about May/June near to the Festival and would cost about £218 for a 6 sq metre skip. We would then arrange a team to go round the site and clear as much rubbish as possible.

**Item 3.** Derek asked for an update on the water harvesting and have the council approved our design, and have they agreed to fund it. PTC has approved our design for a water harvesting idea, but we need to finalise and check with the PTC if an agreement can be obtained for a grant.

**Item 4.** Mike C asked has the PTC given final approval of sheds with water harvesting on the site. Update of plans for the Allotment open day. Also update on a new water heater. On the sheds the PTC has not given approval for any sheds on the site. The reason was mainly because when people see sheds on the site the fencing around the site would be damaged trying to see what plot holders kept in their sheds. PTC would though give approval to 5 foot tall storage sheds that Larry gave examples from Almondsbury garden centre.

On the Allotment open day a stand will be allocated for our Society on the day. Organisation of the event will be carried out near the time and where the gazebo is located for the water harvesting a barbeque can be arranged that is next to the entrance between the allotment site and festival stands. Notices to advertise the festival will be better advertised and will be organised at our next committee meeting.

The water heater has been bought and will be installed as soon as possible.

## **AOB**

Norman said he could not locate the site mowers for plot holder's use during the week. These had been moved to the shop while large quantities of bamboo canes were stored in the shed. Also the rotavator was placed in the shed by mistake. This caused no space to store the two mowers. It was agreed to return the rotavator to the pink container and the mowers to the correct shed.

When the farmer delivered horse manure for the site on the weekend, the key to the main gate was missing. This caused an hour delay before we had to ask the farmer to leave the manure in between the council two site fences. The committee agreed to obtain another spare key to prevent the same problem occurring in the future.