

Pretoria Road Allotment Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at the allotment site 6th November 2016

Apologies for absence: Terry Wall, Roger Fussell, Mike Checkley

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The minutes from our last meeting (4th September 2016) were adopted and signed off by the chairman.

Item one. From Kelly. Kelly would like to be involved in organizing an Easter Bonnet parade over the Easter period 2017. Kelly will approach Merlin, Rolls Royce, Asda Community Publicity Officer, Patchway Library, local schools and businesses and make them aware of the fund raising for the community at Pretoria Road Allotments. This will be based mainly around local children's events like painting Easter themed eggs and will have other events which both children and parents can enjoy and take part in.

Item two. From Roger. Roger proposed that we reduce the length of time given to people who default on paying their annual rent. Currently, they are allowed 44 days in which to pay once the 1st October deadline has passed, as per our constitution. This seems ridiculously long. Roger proposed balloting members via email to suggest reducing this period of grace to 14 days. It is possible to reach far more members by email than are ever likely to attend an AGM and will save us nearly a year in time before we would ordinarily be able to amend the wording in the constitution. Roger requested a discussion and a vote on this matter.

After a fair amount of discussion, the committee decided unanimously that we should go down this route and that once the 1st October deadline has passed, they will receive a letter telling them that they are in arrears and that they then have 14 days in which to pay both their outstanding rent and the £10 surcharge for late payment. This letter will also make plain the fact that should they fail to pay within the 14 days, they will cease to be a member and forfeit their plot. After the 14 days expires, they will receive a final letter asking them to clear what they want from the plot and hand back their keys within 7 days. This gives them 21 days in all after the 1st October deadline has passed.

Any other business. The question was asked, when will the new car parking facility be started and the new entrance into the site be created?

Les advised that the council have put this on the agenda for work needing to be carried out in 2017, when more new fencing around the allotment site will be added.

Norman mentioned that there is a large hole in the ground near the main gate and that this could cause damage to the underside of vehicles unless it is put right.

Les advised that the simplest solution would be to get some gravel and fill the hole in, then compact it.

Mike S asked if we would be able to put some protection barriers around our new gazebo in order to prevent any possible damage from nearby car parking and more importantly, from machinery used by the council when cutting grass etc.?

It was agreed that we would place some bollards around the gazebo for the time being, as no one should be parking near it until next spring, as the ground is too wet for members to bring their cars down near their plots. When we get the new water butts and put them in place, this may be enough to protect the wooden supports.

The meeting finished at 11.20 am.