

Pretoria Road Allotment Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at the allotment site 8th January 2017

Those present:- Les Brooks - Chairman
Mike Stinchcomb - Vice-chairman
Derek Howell - Treasurer
Roger Fussell - Secretary
Darren Bowden
Diana Sidwell
Kelly Morgan-Ramseyer

Apologies for absence: Terry Wall, Norman Bradford

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The minutes from our last meeting (6th November 2016) were adopted and signed off by the chairman.

Before we got down to the business in hand, Kelly very generously donated £100 to the Society funding. This was warmly welcomed by one and all. We are extremely grateful to you Kelly. Thank you very much.

Item one. From Derek. Concerning Key holders and site security. Derek felt that those who are not committee members, should not have access to keys other than their normal gate key. Those present agreed with this. Derek made a note of those who still hold keys to which they are no longer entitled and will approach them to retrieve those keys. It was agreed that we do make an exception in the case of Brian Jones, as he has keys to the kitchen in order to allow people access to tea and coffee facilities, when there are no committee members on site.

After some further discussion, it was agreed that we should change the codes on the key safes and also on the shop door. It was further agreed that this would be done at least twice a year in future as part of our site security process.

Item Two. From Derek. He asked if we can be updated on the proposal to have the council create an extra gate at the rear of the shed area in order to allow people to bring their cars on site. The council have agreed that they will facilitate an extra parking area for around 20 cars, in the area beyond the raised beds.

Les has had discussions with Lucy at PTC and they believe that they can do this work in late spring or early summer. It was felt that this is a little late to be starting this work, as by then the parking problem will be acute again and we have been asking for this for nearly a year. Les is to go back to PTC and ask them if they can bring this work forward.

Item Three. From Mike. He asked for an update on when we might complete the Gazebo installation. We have the guttering etc., but cannot install this, as we do not yet have any water butts. We were let down on these by the original supplier.

Les told us that there may be some Ex-wine vats available. These would suit our purposes if we can get them. We understand that they are free, but that delivery charges may apply. These vats are approximately 4 feet square and the same in height and come in a wire cage to keep them in shape. Les is to look into obtaining some of these as soon as possible.

Item Four. From Diana. Diana asked whether we could do something to contain the weeds etc. on vacant plots, in order to make them more acceptable to potential new plot holders. She also asked whether we could advertise locally, the fact that we have vacant plots.

Various suggestions and ideas were put forward. These included contacting the Patchway Garden Society and making them aware, covering the plots with weed suppressing sheeting (which we were informed can be obtained at reasonable cost on Ebay), and when conditions allow, rotovating the plots.

Les advised that we already advertise in Patchway People which is published quarterly.

Roger volunteered to produce some notices advertising plots and approach Patchway Community Centre and the local Library about getting these displayed.

Les mentioned a group called Precious Time and said he would speak to them also.

A discussion was had on the merits of allowing certain groups and charities to have a plot rent free. They would have to pay membership and water rates though.

These measures were met with general approval and are to be pursued.

AOB. Kelly has now sent out letters regarding the Easter Egg Hunt etc., and has asked businesses if they might like to put up some funding for the Society. She is also to ask Asda if they would donate some Easter eggs etc.

After some discussions, it was agreed that we will hold an open day on the weekend before Easter. We will have barbecued food, cakes and so on and refreshments. We will put on an Easter Egg Hunt and various other competitions for young and old. Les has agreed to approach PTC to get some flyers printed in readiness for this.

On that note, the meeting was closed.