

Pretoria Road Allotment Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at the allotment site 6th May 2017

Those present:- Les Brooks - Chairman
Mike Stinchcomb - Vice-chairman
Derek Howell - Treasurer
Roger Fussell - Secretary
Diana Sidwell
Terry Wall
Norman Bradford
Kelly Morgan-Ramseyer

Apologies for absence: Darren Bowden

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The minutes from our last meeting (12th March 2017) were adopted and signed off by the chairman.

Item one. From Mike. The security codes on the two key boxes in the kitchen need to be changed as soon as possible. It has been mentioned that an ex committee member has been seen accessing the keys. Obviously this cannot be allowed or we run the risk of being accused of not maintaining proper secure control over the site.

The committee agreed with this without much discussion. It was agreed that only current committee members should have these codes.

Shortly after our meeting, Terry Wall was able to amend the codes for us and the new codes have been sent to all committee members. Well done Terry.

Item Two. From Kelly. Can we discuss the Tesco Community Grant?

Kelly has agreed to make the application on our behalf. There is a possible maximum of £5000 available to successful applicants. Further to the items suggested at our last meeting, we have decided that possible uses for the grant are... Further raised beds for community use by the disabled; pop-up gazebos to provide some shelter during events; a wildflower meadow at the bottom end of the proposed new car park; making disabled access to the site possible and further improvements to our water harvesting system. Our thanks to Kelly for all that she has done and continues to do on our behalf.

Item Three. From Derek. The green container which houses members' machinery is becoming clogged up with machines and bits and pieces. Some machines are obviously out of commission and hardly any are labelled, as was required when they were stored there.

The committee discussed the situation and it was agreed that we should get together and tidy the container (probably around mid- June). It was pointed out that whilst the items in the container are covered by the PTC insurance in the event of fire etc., we would be unable to identify the owners of most machinery. It was decided that this is not to be allowed to continue. We will put up a notice to the effect that members must label their machines and remove any that are of no further use. Roger has agreed to create a notice for approval by the committee.

AOB.

Les raised the matter of the ongoing problems caused by plot holders misusing the mowers and the strimmer. He has had to replace the pull cords several times already this season and has had to do other jobs on them also.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that we should in future, make a charge up front to anyone wishing to use these items. This charge will initially be £1 per use. Also, plot holders are not to pass these machines on to other people when they are done with them, but must bring them back to a committee member. In the event of any damage, the plot holder in whose name the machine is signed out, will be held responsible. Roger to produce the notice.

Norman has suggested that the new guttering on our gazebo, may not be adequate in the event of seriously heavy rainfall. The committee discussed this and agreed to wait and see what actually happens before changing anything.

The issue of council dumping of rubbish on the site was raised again. Les has spoken to PTC and they have pointed out that due to cuts imposed by government, they find their ability to remove rubbish to the appropriate disposal sites has been reduced. They have agreed to do what they can.

Kelly reminded everyone about the Asda green token scheme. She says we are very near to our target and need to make a final push. Mike to put a reminder on the website.

Les has asked that we advertise the Patchway flower and garden show and Mike has agreed to put this on the website.

We are advised by Les, that Lucy from PTC has been chasing the re-arrangement of the perimeter fence to accommodate the new gate, thus allowing work on the additional parking area to proceed.

It was agreed that we need to contact the people who supplied our gate lock etc. and get two new locks. One for the existing main gate as this is getting very hard to use, and one for the proposed new gate.

On that note, the meeting was closed.