

Pretoria Road Allotment Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at the allotment site 2nd July 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 (6th May 2017) were adopted and signed off by the chairman.

Item one. Can we discuss the situation regarding vacant plots? These are invariably left in bad condition, with weeds spreading to neighboring plots. It has been suggested to me that as we are quick to send letters to plot holders whose plots are in a mess, that we should therefore have a duty to ensure that vacant plots are kept tidy.

In response it was suggested that we level these plots, then either spray with weed killer or cover with black sheeting. It was also suggested that we might get our friendly farmer to plow them up, but it was agreed that this was not viable on the grounds of both cost and accessibility. Diana has volunteered to trim and spray the vacant plot next to hers and we thank her for that.

The agreed plan was that we use a strimmer or brush cutter to level the weeds, then either spray them and/or cover them with black sheeting.

Item Two. Update needed on the new parking facility.

Les was able to report that he has spoken with Lucy from PTC and that she has indicated that it may be possible to have the parking facility in use by the time of the festival. This is not guaranteed though.

Item Three. Can we re-visit our decision to make plot 51 into 4 community use plots.

This was discussed because the plot is now severely overgrown and posing a weed problem to neighboring plots. In response, Les has offered to see if he can get the tractor and loader and scrape the weeds etc., back and move them onto plot 52. This is our designated composting site.

AOB.

The matter of sheds was raised again. After some discussion regarding this, it was generally agreed that if these are to be allowed, then we should try to make them as uniform as possible to avoid the site looking like a shanty town. To this end, we are to investigate whether we can obtain a deal from a manufacturer for bulk buying and delivery to site. If this can be achieved, then we would put out a notice and duplicate it on the website. This would offer sheds at a good price to anyone who wanted one. This would be on the strict understanding that they will be responsible for their own insurance and security.

We discussed that mowers again. We currently have two petrol mowers, with one out of action. Most of the problems we encounter seem to stem from misuse by users. We have to pay out for repairs and parts every season and all of these costs are coming out of funds that we could otherwise use for improvements to the allotment site.

After some lengthy discussion, it was agreed that we will get the mower fixed and serviced. At the end of the season, we will look to buy a new mower (budget for this £200 - £250). We will then keep one mower aside as a backup.

We discussed the festival open day and who is to do various things. Kelly is to deal with things such as cake and scones. Derek will obtain bacon, burgers and spare gas cylinder. Diana will see to provision of milk and onions to go with the burgers. In addition to this, we will have a pop up gazebo on site and a table on the sports field. Les will be engaged on the field with the Men in Sheds team. It was agreed that we will start setting up on the day at between 8 and 9 am.

On that note, the meeting was closed.