

# **Pretoria Road Allotment Society**

## **Minutes of the committee meeting held at the allotment site 3<sup>rd</sup> September 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017) were adopted and signed off by the chairman.

**Item one.** From Mike:- Can we please arrange for more signage for the main and side gates, urging members to lock the gate when leaving the site. Recently there have been several reports of the gates being left wide open at up to 9pm. If we allow this to go on unchecked, members who suffer losses as a result might feel that they have a legitimate claim against the Society.

We discussed this problem, which has become widespread. The overall feeling was that we should replace the current signs and make them more direct, pointing out that it is part of a member's responsibility to lock up when leaving the site. This applies even if there are other persons still on site. It was agreed that Roger will produce new signage and print sufficient of these to allow us to post them on both gates and on the water harvesting stations. Les is to get these signs laminated.

**Item Two.** From Derek:- Can we get an update on the tidying up of the containers which house member's machinery.

In response, Les has said that this is ongoing and that there are still too many useless pieces of machinery in the container. These will eventually be removed and if not taken by their owners, will be scrapped.

**Item Three.** From Mike:- Should we look at moving one or two of the new water containers which are housed under the new gazebo? This would give more space inside of the gazebo.

This was discussed and as these new containers are not filling up in the way originally planned, there is a case for moving two of them. Mike suggested that we use them to replace some of the existing butts at the harvesting stations. This met with general agreement and a working party is to be made up to see if this will work out ok. This to be looked at in the Autumn/Winter.

**Item Four.** From Derek:- Can we have another update on the new parking facility. The work has stopped and weeds are now growing over the area which was cleared in readiness.

Les was able to tell us that the contractor who is responsible has been seconded to other work. However he will shortly be returning to finish the job.

**Item five.** From Roger:- I am proposing to re-write the handbook, as it is out of date and some of the information it contains is not correct. Can I get the committee's approval please?

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that this should be done and that all currently relevant information should be included.

## **AOB.**

The date for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was confirmed as being Monday October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30 at the Casson Centre in Rodway Road.

Mike explained the procedure for collecting rents and advised that a folder with this information and some plastic money bags was in the shop, together with the rent receipt book.

Once again, Members are reminded that all rents are due by the end of September but that anyone who cares to attend the AGM, can pay their rent on that evening. Anyone paying after the AGM, will be charged an extra £10 for late payment. There will be no exceptions to this ruling, which was agreed after a vote at the last AGM.

Members have three ways to pay. By cash or cheque to any committee member (who will give a receipt and lock your payment in the safe), by placing a cheque in the RED box inside of the shed/kitchen, or by attending the AGM and paying then.

Derek raised the matter of when members become eligible for the lower pensioners rate of rent. It was agreed that this would be on attaining age 65 for both men and women. The lower rate would be applied (providing we are told of your age) on the next rent renewal following attainment of age 65.

On that note, the meeting was closed.