

Pretoria Road Allotment Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at the allotment site on Sunday 2ND SEPTEMBER 2018

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

Apologies for absence: Ray Perthshire, Terry Wall

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The minutes from our last meeting (1st July 2018) were adopted and signed off by the Chairman.

Item one. From Derek. Can we agree on a date for the AGM and also discuss the condition of the Gazebo?

After a brief discussion, during which Les told us he would be on holiday on 1st October, we agreed that for the sake of continuity, we should stick to 1st October and that Mike would deputise for Les at the AGM. We chose to do this because all our paperwork and also the handbook, tells plot holders that rents are due at any time in September, but that the last possible date to pay and avoid a £10 penalty charge for late payment, is the 1st October at the AGM. It was agreed that we will try to let as many folk as possible know about the AGM and that rents are due during September. However, members who have had a plot for more than two seasons, should not need reminding, as rents are ALWAYS due in September.

Regarding the Gazebo, Derek thinks it looks a mess and could be improved. The water harvesting is not working as well as it did at first. Mike and Derek have suggested that a small team of us should tidy up the area and try to get the water harvesting set up a little better. In fairness to the Committee members, we have had an exceptionally dry summer, so perhaps it's no surprise that things have not gone well. It may be that the ground has shifted a little, due to the long dry summer. Matters have not been helped by the fact that children have thrown grasses and stones into the system, because they were not properly supervised by their parents. This has been witnessed by several plot holders.

Item Two. From Diana and Mike. Diana and Mike raised the question of how we are to go about future fund raising and whether we should look at having a separate group of people to run this. Diana suggested that we should ask the plot holders to get more involved with arranging our Open Days and etc. She thought that they should be asked to help arrange these days and also support them by turning up to them.

We discussed this idea and it was pointed out that the vast majority of plot holders don't seem to be interested in these days. However, it was also pointed out that unless we get more input from plot holders, we may well have to stop fund raising altogether, which will mean no more open days, barbecues and etc. We agreed that a notice would be produced by Roger, to be displayed at each gate and also at the kitchen and the gazebo. This notice will ask people to help us both arrange and run these days (There are only three each year) in an effort to raise more funds for the Society. This funding is what allows us to keep the machinery (Mowers, Rotovator, and Strimmer) running and also to replace them when they are past their useful life. It also allows us to maintain the site in a usable condition for the plot holders.

We don't think that most folk appreciate the work that the committee does and that we are all volunteers who receive no pay whatsoever, for what we do. There is a limit to how much we can do without proper support from our members.

Item three. From Roger. Roger appealed for committee members to take care when collecting rents and to ensure that the correct amounts were paid. He also asked that the rent receipt book be used properly and that receipts should be dated and signed and a readable copy left in the book.

AOB: There were no items under this heading.

On that note, the meeting was closed.

Date of the next committee meeting was agreed as Sunday 21st October. This is primarily to arrange the bonfire night.