# PRETORIA ROAD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY – MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2021

**Committee Members Present:** **Les Brooks – Chairman**

 **Mike Stinchcomb – Vice Chairman**

 **Derek Howell - Treasurer**

 **Diana Sidwell – Minute Secretary**

 **Doug Blackwell- Secretary**

 **Mary Hayward**

 **Terry Wall**

 **Norman Bradford**

 **Alex Dommett**

**The Committee Meeting was held virtually by Zoom.**

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 9th January 2021 were agreed and adopted.

1. **Derek Howell** – **The return of Plot deposits**

Plot deposits were held for 2 years and initially set up to ensure Plots were kept tidy and handed back at the end of tenure in a good state. We are now approaching the point where deposits are due to be returned to eligible plot holders. Following discussion around the lack of income this year due to Covid restrictions, it was agreed that a letter will be sent to all eligible plot holders advising them that their plot deposit is due to be returned but also offering them the opportunity to donate the deposit money to Allotment funds if they do not want it returned.

1. **Alex Dommett – How to engage more Plot holders in fundraising projects**

Alex suggested that setting up a private/public facebook page would be a good way of reaching plot holders. It could be a place where plot holders could share ideas and also keep the wider local Community up to date with planned fundraising events. Following discussion the Committee agreed that this was a good idea. Alex agreed to set up Facebook Profile.

1. **Alex Dommett**  – **Redesigning a new digital updated Handbook**

The Allotment Handbook currently exists in a word document format and is sent to all new plot holders. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Handbook does need to be updated and this will be discussed again at a future meeting .

4 **Alex Dommett – Rubbish in the bushes around the Allotment Site**

Alex was concerned about the amount of litter around the Allotment Site and in particular, in the bushes adjacent to Langley Place (bath tub/pond liner etc.). As well as being unsightly, Alex was concerned that it is a hazard to wildlife. Les agreed to contact the Council as the remaining litter on site had not been generated by Plot holders. He advised that any “clean up” by the Council was on hold at the moment but will be discussed at the next Parks Meeting. Mike thought the Council had cut the grass round the site and said whilst some litter does “blow” on to the Site, the issue has been ongoing for many years despite Plot holder being encouraged to take their litter home. The purchase of litter picking sticks was discussed. Les said that the Council could be approached and would loan both litter picking sticks and bags. Alex said that she has 20 pickers and hoops that can be used. Once the refuse bags are full the Street Care Team will collect. The Committee will meet on Site on Saturday 27th February 10.30a.m. to remove the rubbish in the bushes adjacent to Langley Place.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Doug was concerned about the bonfire area where wood is discarded and asked whether we should be “signing posting” this area as it only encourages people to dump rubbish. It was agreed that the post will be left in situ but the signs will be taken down.

**Date of next Meeting will be Saturday 10th April 2021, 10.30 a.m. on zoom or Sunday 11th April 10.30 a.m at the Allotment Site weather permitting.**