

Pretoria Road Allotment Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

Saturday 7th February 2026 - Pretoria Road Allotment Site 6.30pm

Committee Members Present:

Claire Nicholl – Chair (CN)

Doug Blackwell – Secretary (DB)

Mark – Treasurer (DH)

Richard Pruettt (RP)

Rob Martinique (RM)

Chris Rowell (CR)

Mary Hayward (MH)

Mia Smart (MSm)

Libby Owen (LO)

Jenny Richardson (JR)

Mike Stinchcombe (MS)

Derek Howell

ITEM 1. Adoption of Committee meeting minutes 24th September 2025

Minutes Accepted.

ITEM 2. Agree date for Easter Egg Hunt and Co-ordinator

Agreed the date of Saturday 28th March 2026 for the Egg Hunt 10am -12am
MH volunteered to co-ordinated this event, supported by JR

ITEM 3. Working party to decorate toilets and outside storage area in front of kitchen.

Paint has been donated by the developers who helped to lay the path, so there is no need to buy any paint. However, the paint needs to be applied when temperatures are above 10 degrees.

DB will send out a date to all committee members when the weather is warmer.

ITEM 4. Agree a plan for maintaining planted areas

It was agreed to invite all members to help maintain communal areas on the last Saturday of each month, starting in April. DB to email members.

ITEM 5. Potential future fundraising events

It was agreed to hold a Halloween themed event on Saturday 31st October.

It was also agreed to hold an Allotment Open Day on Saturday 30th May. This would coincide with the monthly community upkeep. Members would be invited to donate plants to sell and the Allotment Committee would provide Teas, Coffee and Cake. RP to create poster.

Depending on the success of this event, a Summer Open Day may also be considered.

It was suggested that the Allotment take a stall at a local school event. This is to be investigated further.

As yet, there has been no contact from members offering to support a fundraising sub-committee.

It was agreed to use the funds from the Southern Brooks Community Partnership grant to help fund the above events. The SB logo will be displayed on posters.
(£100 x Easter Event, £100 for working party group and £100 for Halloween Event.)

It was reported that there were several last-minute cancellations for the wreath making workshop. Therefore, in future, advance payment will be taken for this event. Provisional dates for this event are Saturday Nov 28th and Saturday Nov 5th. It is anticipated that the cost for this event will be £12 per person.

ITEM 6. Shop duty rota

A copy was given to each committee member.

ITEM 7. Agree what to stock in Shop

It was agreed to sell off the current supplies of compost for £7 a bag or £20 for 3 bags. It was also agreed to restock shop with bean sticks, organic slug pellets and gloves.

ITEM 8. Correspondence with members including application for structure on plot

All agreed to accept the proposal for a members shed and greenhouse/polytunnel. DB to remind all members in the next email, to position structures at least 1ft from pathways.

A.O.B –

- An existing water station needs repair.
- Carry out a survey of all current water stations/structures.
- Schools using allotment again after 23rd February.
- All plots currently rented. 12 people on waiting list. All rents Paid.
- DB reported that representatives from Rolls Royce were at the PTC meeting outlining their plans for future expansion. DB to contact Rolls Royce and enquire about their support for Community Groups and ask if they could help the Allotment Society with future projects. CN to prepare list of suggested areas for support linked to Community and Environment.

- Banking – Mark to look at existing bank account and investigate the most suitable bank and bank account for the Allotment Society. It was agreed that the signatures for accounting should be Treasurer, Chairperson and Secretary. Aim to be complete by end of April.
- RM reported that he has cut a lot of the hedges. Timber from this is available for pea sticks. He has planted many of the bare root trees and there are approx. 50 more trees to go in.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: Saturday 21st March at 10.15am on site.