

Boniface Allotments Association

Committee meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 2008 at 19.30 in the Council Offices

Present: Mr Alan Bellamy (chairman), Mrs Sandra Chalton, Mrs Dee Lawrence-Szabo, Ms Anita Munson, Mr Bill Parr, Mrs Maggie Stewart, Ms Penni Tearle.

Also present: Frank Letch (Councillor) for the opening part of the meeting

1. Apologies: Ms Gudrun Ley, Ms Anne Sweetman

Before starting the meeting Frank Letch reported the outcomes of the recent allotment judging activity, which provided an opportunity to walk round the sites.

The meeting was given a list of winners of the annual allotment competition and the following points were made:

- a) The 'unequal' standing of the winners on each of the three plots, given the difference in number of plots per site (5 at Moffats, 35 at Barnfield, 67 at Exhibition Road).
- b) It was noted that the recorded size of some of the allotments may be very inaccurate, and this needs to be addressed.
- c) Some allotments had trees which seemed to be over the height limit and this may need to be addressed.
- d) Some allotments which were very large are only half cultivated and this may be something to address.
- e) There was a prevalence of mare's tail on the Exhibition Road site in particular and it was suggested professional advice may be needed.
- f) Tiverton have a flourishing garden club and hold annual shows, and this might be something Crediton might want to consider. A 'show' on the Town Square, as part of the 2009 St Boniface celebrations was suggested.
- g) The views of the Association were sought on the timing of the annual judging of allotments.

2. **Minutes of the meeting on 12th May 2008.** One correction to the minutes was noted regarding the use of weedkiller on the 'path' at Barnfield. The minutes were altered then approved and signed.

3. Matters arising

- a) **Noticeboards:** It was reported that these have arrived and will be installed shortly once the necessary tools are in place. A transport problem was reported in terms of getting the boards to Exhibition Road. Alan Bellamy offered to discuss and try and help.
- b) **Tree planting on Barnfield site:** A number of trees have been ordered and paid for, as there is only one time each year when this can happen. The details and total sum will be put in a proposal to the Council. If this money is forthcoming the trees will be planted at Barnfield in December 2008. If not a provisional arrangement for the trees to be used elsewhere has been made. All are less than 3metres high and minimal pruning is needed for the trees chosen. A list and planting plan of the trees is available. Volunteers will be needed

to help with the planting, and an invitation to help will be included in the next mailing (AGM mailing).

- c) **Allocation of new allotments:** It was explained that the Association is now active in this process and is responsible for making contact with the person at the top of the list, showing them the site, explaining the terms of the contract and informing the Council of the outcome. To date this has worked well and has speeded up the process as well as making good links between new tenants and other allotment holders.

4. **Action plan for uncultivated plots.** Draft copies of letters to be sent out by the Association (2) and one prepared for the Council to consider using, were tabled. It was agreed these were helpful, and should be edited, re-circulated and presented at the AGM. *Action: Anita to edit and circulate by email. Penni to print and send to those not on email.*

5. **Annual allotment competition**

In order to make the competition fairer and more meaningful, it was suggested that Barnfield and Moffatts (totaling 40 plots) could be considered together and Exhibition Road (67 plots), separately. It was also suggested that a slightly earlier date should be used for the judging and that the awards should be presented at the AGM.

6. **Planning the AGM.**

It was reported that the guest speaker initially invited was not able to do it this year. It was therefore suggested that a number of allotment holders should be invited to speak for 5 minutes each on an aspect of vegetable gardening or working an allotment. Various names were suggested and the three officers agreed to follow up these ideas. *Action: To invite certain allotment holders, in particular prize winners, to do a talk (Alan, Maggie, Penni)*

7. **Any other business**

- a. Alan explained the new link between the Allotment Association and Hayward School. The committee were told that weekly meetings were held between 3.30 to 4.30 on Fridays at the school, and committee members would be welcome to attend and offer help/advice. *Action: to contact Yvonne Crone, Haywards West, East Street if able to help.*
- b. It was asked whether there had been problems at Exhibition Road, as police had been seen there. It was noted at least one example of 'stealing' vegetables had occurred.

8. **Date of next committee meeting** was set for Monday 29th September 2008.

Action: To book the Council Chambers (Secretary).

The meeting closed at 21.00