

# **Boniface Allotments Association**

## **Committee meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 19.30 in the Council Offices

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**Present:** Mr Alan Bellamy, Mrs Sandra Chalton, Ms Gudrun Ley, Mr Bill Parr, Mrs Maggie Stewart, Ms Penni Tearle.

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1. **Apologies:** Ms Anita Munson

2. **Minutes of the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008.** Accepted and signed.

### **3. Matters arising**

- a) **Noticeboards:** It was reported that the noticeboard on Barnfield has been set up, and some items already posted. There is an initial problem with condensation, but it was noted that this was now improving. The possibility of putting desiccant into the board area was offered to absorb the moisture if the problem persists. The noticeboard for Exhibition Road was due to be set up shortly. Thanks were expressed to Alan and Maggie Stewart for their work coordinating and implementing the project and to Mike Wreford and Colin Acott for their help in positioning the boards at Barnfield.

### **4. Election of Officers**

The existing officers agreed to stand again and the committee re-elected them.

### **5. Town Council meetings:**

#### **a) Report from GPC meeting 07.10.08**

- i. Risk assessment inspections were to be carried out on Barnfield and Exhibition Road between 7<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October.
- ii. All allotments were let. Plenty of interest
- iii. Invoices were ready and also inserts about AGM and tree planting had been received. These will go out this week with a letter about change of invoice date.
- iv. Estimated costings for 2009 had been received. These cover costs of Association membership, insurance and £45 for administration expenses. This outlay will not all be recouped this year because of change of dates, but will be resolved by the end of the following year.
- v. One tenant had complained about the resident of the property at the end of his allotment moving unwanted earth over the fence and onto his plot. A situation it was proving hard to resolve.
- vi. Lack of cultivation was still a problem, but much improved. BAA were preparing letters to send prior to follow up from Council.
- vii. Vehicle access gate on Barnfield allotments: Richard Adams would check and make recommendations for repair/replacement.
- viii. Allotment prizes were to be presented at the AGM. It had been agreed that Council would present first, then BAA would do a gardeners question time followed by AGM. The Council had been asked to cover the cost of room booking for the first half hour. Winners were to be invited to attend.
- ix. Minutes and agenda of the Council meeting were available if required.

BAA Committee members felt the gate situation should be reviewed at the planned risk assessment visit, as the *style* of the existing gate was a cause for concern, and a simple repair or even direct replacement may not be the best solution.

**b) Report from GPC meeting 04.11.08:**

- i. Problems were reported with the reduced turning circle on the Barnfield site.
- ii. Alan Bellamy asked about the current situation regarding the gate at Barnfield
- iii. Alan Bellamy asked about a 'rumour' that the Barnfield plots may be built on in the future. Such a suggestion was refuted.

**6. AGM follow up**

- a) Council had been asked about the interest expressed in keeping chickens on the plots. It was noted this matter had previously been raised and it had been the subject of a High Court case. The ruling had gone in favour of the Council who did not agree with tenants being allowed to keep chickens or other animals and this was not something which they would entertain in the future.

**b) Tractor access at Barnfield**

This ongoing problem was to be looked into again by the Town Council. It was understood that the numbering post had been put in the wrong place, but also a shed had been erected which was 'half in and half out' of the allotment boundary.

**c) Updating waiting list**

A current list, accurate as far as the Town Council was aware had been requested and received. The Committee agreed that more clarity was needed and that there was a need to check the names on the list. It was agreed that the 'list' would be divided up so that each of the committee members present would phone a small number of people to see whether they did indeed still want an allotment then the results compiled so as to update the list. A discussion followed about enthusiastic new tenants who had little prior experience, and the importance of being able to offer them support.

**d) More land for allotments needed**

It was suggested that we should be clearer about the current situation and waiting list before pursuing this matter.

**7. Greenhouses on allotment plots**

It was reported that the Council were going to write a suggested clause about greenhouses to go into future contracts, and present it to the Committee. Glass would not be allowed, but with some restriction on size and design, greenhouses made from other materials would be permitted.

**8. Newsletter**

The first draft of a Newsletter was circulated, but it was agreed given the timescale and letter about tree planting already included, no newsletter would be included in this mailing.

**9. Any other business**

- a. It was reported that our insurance company NewSpace had been taken over by Axa. This should not have any foreseeable impact on costs or cover provided.
- b. The Council has passed on £500 of the rental income to cover our planned costs for the coming year.
- c. Floral Crediton. There was a plan to decorate Crediton with 'Boniface coloured' flowers, ie gold and dark red. The Association were asked for ideas where floral displays may be located. The Council were keen to encourage people to grow their own flowers in visible places. It was noted that there were some very positive examples of previous displays. Next meeting of the Floral Crediton group 29<sup>th</sup> Jan.

- d.** It was agreed, following a recent misunderstanding, that any proposed or planned initiatives involving allotments should be brought to the attention of the Committee for discussion before being advertised more widely.
- e. Date of next committee meeting was set for Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009.**  
*Action: To book the Council Chambers (Secretary). **NB. This date was subsequently changed to Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 2009.***

The meeting closed at 21.00