

# **Boniface Allotments Association**

## **Committee meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 19.30 in the Council Offices

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**Present:** Mrs Sandra Chalton, Ms Anita Munson, Mr Bill Parr, Mrs Maggie Stewart, Ms Penni Tearle.

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1. **Apologies:** Mr Alan Bellamy

2. **Minutes of the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008.** Accepted and signed.

### **3. Matters arising**

- a) **More land for allotments needed (6d).** Sandra raised the suggestion that finding land for a community garden might be worth considering as some current and potential allotment holders might be happy with a shared space. Whilst the suggestion was welcomed it was noted that this was the nature of the WEN allotment at present, and also that new land for a community growing space may not be easy to come by.

### **4. Town Council meetings: Report from GPC meeting 02.12.08**

- i. It was confirmed by the Council that having investigated the matter the post on plot 10C was in the right place. The committee discussed this outcome and noted that it was important to resolve the issue raised about tractor access for deliveries of manure etc.
- ii. The Barnfield gate had been reinstated
- iii. A health and safety inspection had been completed and no major issues emerged.
- iv. The Town Council agreed that the WEN allotment day held on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 was something they supported in principle, but asked for more information to be made available to them prior to such an event. In particular the need for insurance, health and safety measures, arrangements for appropriate supervision of children, the formal support of the BAA, parking, a limit on the number of people who would be in the site at any one time and publicity/invitations was raised.

### **5. Complaints about dog fouling**

Several people on the Barnfield site had complained about dogs fouling their allotments. One committee member who lived near the site suggested this may be dogs owned by people who were not allotment holders walking their dogs on the site. The committee proposed that the Council should be approached and asked to put up a notice about not allowing dogs to foul the area, in the same way as was done on pavements etc. Bins for dog waste near or on the allotment site would be helpful. *Action: to put this request to Town Council. (Secretary)*

### **6. Trees on Barnfield site**

Sandra Chalton provided a report on the successful tree planting, including a plan detailing which trees were finally planted. She noted there was also a collection of photos. She raised people's attention to the fact that the trees would need to be kept watered at least for the first year or two. The importance of mulching was also raised, and it was suggested that grass cuttings could be used for this. Sandra was thanked for all her hard work on this over the previous year, as were others who had helped with the practical implementation of the scheme.

### **7. Update on vacant plots and waiting lists**

Each committee member had contacted a group of people on the waiting list to find out if the demand was as great as it appeared. From an original list of 43 people it transpired that only 2 people no longer want one (although there are still a few who it is proving hard to get a reply from). The waiting lists were discussed and the Committee were unanimously in favour of proposing to the Council that:

- i) a note of the date any request for an allotment was made
- ii) a single list in chronological order of making the request was kept noting any preference for one site or another, but not having separate lists.
- iii) A copy of the current list was sent to the Committee secretary (for circulation) annually, in September/October.

## **8. Support for new allotment holders**

The importance of welcoming new allotment holders was emphasized, and committee members were asked to be proactive on this. Some practical problems have been mentioned; for example several new plot holders have found scrap metal, plastic etc on their plots and have asked for help in removing it. It was noted that this particular problem was not restricted to new plot holders, but was still an issue generally. It was proposed we approach the Council for support for this. Two suggestions were put forward. One was to publicise a place on each site where such rubbish could be put, and a date for collection; the other was use of a skip for allotment holders for a specific publicised period.

## **9. Any other business**

- a. The Committee were informed that the insurance company we use had a scheme whereby people could insure the contents of their shed if they wished. It was agreed this would be publicised on the noticeboard
- b. Floral Crediton need more members, as well as a secretary and treasurer. They also had some specific 'tasks' which needed to be attended to and volunteers were required. There was some interest in helping with this and one member agreed to contact the tree planting group.
- c. The committee were told that a decision has been made that the judging of allotments would take place on July 7<sup>th</sup>.
- d. To promote and support the Crediton in Bloom competition Tuckers had agreed a 20% discount on seed and plant purchases for anyone who completed and submitted their own entry form for the competition at Tuckers.
- e. Problems were reported on the Exhibition Road allotments where shed windows had been broken. Police have been involved. Bill Parr had been to look at this and noted 8 sheds with windows broken (on plots 21, 21A, 20A, 5A, 5B, 6AA, 7, 8) and one with a damaged door. Nothing appeared to have been stolen.
- f. Council meeting attendance was agreed as: March 3<sup>rd</sup> Anita, April 7<sup>th</sup> Maggie.

10. **Date of next committee meeting was set for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009.** *Action: To book the Council chambers (Secretary).*

The meeting closed at 21.00