

Boniface Allotments Association

Committee meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2009 at 19.30 in the Council Offices

Present: Mr Alan Bellamy, Mrs Sandra Chalton, Mrs Maggie Stewart, Mrs Gudrun Ley.

1. **Apologies:** Ms Penni Tearle, Ms Anita Munson, Mr Bill Parr,
2. **Minutes of the meeting** on 9th February 2009. Not discussed. It was agreed to defer this to the next committee meeting
3. **Matters arising:** None.
4. **Town Council meetings:**
 - i. Town Council General Purposes Committee meetings March and April. Both meetings had been missed. It was felt that all committee members need to be better informed of both the dates of future meetings and items on the agenda.
 - ii. Floral Crediton Working Group. The Mayor had negotiated a 20% discount scheme with Tuckers and Barnstaple Cross Nursery for any resident signing up for the Floral Crediton competition. Entry forms are now available in the town and have been displayed in Allotment notice boards. Some progress had been made on the plot of land at Creedy Corner and the Town Clerk had applied to the Locality Fund for improvements such as tree planting.
5. **Greenhouses on allotments.** A report was given about the Town Council's preference for type of greenhouse. It was agreed that glass should not be used, but there was concern about why frames should not be metal. Brochures to be obtained from Tuckers (*Alan*) and B&Q (*Gudrun*) and from small tunnel suppliers (*Maggie*), for discussion at the next committee meeting. Proposals on maximum size, bases, 'planning permission' and preferred materials could then be presented to the Council.
6. **Funding.** Alan reported on the suggestion of Locality funding from Councilor Nick Way. More information about when and how funding is likely to be available is required. Two possible projects were identified:
 - i. provision of boarding/solid fencing around the new 'lay down' area at Exhibition Road and
 - ii. improvements to the wide entrance at Barnfield, with a view to creating a 'lay down' area on that site.
7. **Crediton food festival.** This will take place on Saturday and Sunday, 13th & 14th June. The tree group will be represented at the 'Grow your own' stall and it was hoped that an allotment representative could be present to answer questions from 10.30 – 4.30 on Saturday. No committee members were able to attend, but the absent members would be approached. It was also suggested that copies of a

newsletter, with contact details, could be made available to give away.

8. Any other business.

- I. The tree planting group had suggested an 'apprenticeship' scheme, where new allotment holders would work with someone with more experience. Schemes in other areas of the country often involve some form of mentoring, or a new gardener having to 'prove' themselves on a small plot before being offered a larger plot of their own. It was felt this should be explored further at a future meeting. *(For further discussion at committee meetings)*
 - II. The first 5 – 10 minutes of all committee meetings should be open to BAA members, to allow time for suggestions, complaints or other comments. *(For further discussion at committee meetings)*
 - III. A representative from Moffats Land is needed on the committee. *(Penni may have a contact)*.
 - IV. Unofficial sharing (where friends are working a plot together, but only one person has signed the agreement). What is the effect on insurance? *(Maggie to contact Insurance company)*
 - V. Vacant plots. Various BAA members had reported allotment B1 being vacant, but no confirmation had been received from the Council. *(Maggie / Penni to contact Martin Ashley)*
 - VI. Barnfield orchard. The concerns of Ken Hooper, who cuts the grass, were expressed. Sandra confirmed that the list of trees is on the noticeboard and that there are no crab apple trees and that any fallen fruit will be removed. Discarded vegetables on the grass below the trees were discussed. *(Maggie will speak to B14 allotment holder.)*
 - VII. Committee meetings. It was suggested that more frequent committee meetings should be held, possibly every 2 months, in order to keep members better informed of activities taking place between meetings. *(For further discussion at committee meetings)*
- 9. Date of next committee meeting was set for Monday 6th July. Action: To book the Council chambers (Secretary).**

The meeting closed at 21.00