

Boniface Allotments Association

Committee meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2009 at 19.30 in the Council Offices

Present: Mr Alan Bellamy, Ms Sandra Chalton, Ms Maggie Stewart Ms Penni Tearle

1. **Apologies:** Ms Anita Munson, Mr Bill Parr.
2. **Question time:** None. It was recognised that this needs to be publicised properly
3. **Minutes of the meeting** on 6th July 2009. These were accepted and signed.
4. **Matters arising:**
 - a) The Chairman asked about the current situation regarding greenhouses. It was reported that Maggie and Penni had both made an input into the planned new tenancy agreement which is shortly to be presented to Town Council. The new version includes a paragraph about greenhouses. Other alterations were also offered, but no response to the submitted agreement had been received, so it is not clear of the exact wording of the final version of the document.
 - b) The Chairman reported that there were still two allotments on Exhibition Road available for letting. Both were in a bad state and proving difficult to let. After some discussion the importance of persisting with finding tenants as soon as possible was noted. There was some discussion as to whether people could reasonably turn down an unkept allotment. It was felt that in the future seriously untended allotments were unlikely to exist, but that currently one of the empty ones (plot 30) was reported as having been untended 'for many years' and was now seriously overgrown. On this occasion it was suggested that the Town Council may be approached to fund a one off clearing job.
 - c) Issues regarding informal plans for sharing allotments were raised and questioned. It was finally agreed that the following two points should be made clear to allotment holders:
 - i. The need for names of anyone sharing an allotment to be registered so they could be made members of BAA for insurance purposes.
 - ii. That newly named people would **not** be able to take on the allotment should the initial allotment holder leave. This would be seen as queue jumping.
 - d) It was noted that the BBQ discussed in 'Any Other Business' had not in fact taken place.
5. **Town Council meetings:**
 - a) Town Council General Purposes Committee meeting in July: Maggie had attended the meeting and had provided a brief report. No further discussion was needed as all matters raised had been dealt with.
 - b) No other meetings had been attended.
6. **Vacant allotments and tenant support.** Discussed under matters arising.

7. **Garden sharing scheme and possible links to BAA.** It was explained that Linda Lever had asked if BAA had any members who may be interested in the scheme. It was agreed that it would be a good idea for those on the waiting list to know about the garden sharing scheme. *Action: Penni to draft a letter, Linda Lever to be asked (by Sandra) to provide a short information sheet/flyer, and both these documents to be sent (via Town Council) to people on the waiting list.*
8. **Bee keeping.** An allotment holder had asked about bee keeping, and this was of interest to several people. A possible site for this was identified as being at the bottom of B11A. *Action: Maggie to contact insurance company, and Sandra to make arrangements for the beekeeper to be consulted about this possible plan.*
9. **Encouraging BAA members into the committee.** Everyone agreed we needed to be proactive in encouraging new committee members. It was suggested we should all be proactive in inviting people so we have some names to propose by the AGM.
10. **Planning the AGM.**
 - a) There were problems with booking a venue for previously suggested dates. Thursday 12th November was the newly proposed date. Moose Hall was suggested as a venue. *Action: Alan to try and book Moose Hall for 12th. Failing that to book Mon 2nd Nov at Boniface Centre. Maggie to contact Phil Thomas at Linscombe Farm once date is clear as a possible speaker.*
 - b) A draft copy of the Newsletter was circulated. Some suggestions for amendments were noted, and Sandra agreed to generate some text regarding the Barnfield tree planting.
11. **Any other business.**

No matters were raised.
12. **Date of next committee meeting** was not set, though it was noted that some informal meetings/discussions would have to take place to finalise papers for the forthcoming AGM.

The meeting closed at 21.45