

Boniface Allotments Association

Committee meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2009 at 19.30 in the Council Offices

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

1. **Apologies:** None.
 2. **Question time:** None.
 3. **Minutes of the meeting** on 7th September 2009. These were accepted and signed.
 4. **Matters arising:**
 - a) The Chairman reported that both previously vacant plots at Exhibition Road had been taken, and similarly all Barnfield plots were now allocated.
 - b) The matter of 'joint tenancy' and named tenants was raised. It was noted the agreements held by BAA members refer loosely to 'family'. In the NSALG Allotment magazine (Issue 3, 2009) discussion of the matter it notes that family members are **not** covered for insurance purposes unless named on the tenancy agreement. It was agreed some further understanding of this was needed.
(Action: Sandra to discuss with Town Council)
 - c) It was reported that the insurance company had been contacted regarding the beekeeping plan, and presented no problem except to note that any problems arising from issues with the bees would not be covered.
 5. **Election of Officers.** All the officers expressed willingness to stand again, and were duly elected.
 6. **Town Council meetings:**
 - a) Town Council General Purposes Committee meetings:
September: Penni attended and noted that
 - i. The new tenancy agreement was passed, and though it did not include the detailed changes the BAA officers had proposed, the essentials were there, and the main new points, eg greenhouses, even if not specifically referred to were now included.
 - ii. It was reported there was one vacant plot on Exhibition Rd and one new one as of that day on Barnfield, which BAA would be informed of as soon as possible.
 - iii. One complaint from a resident in relation to an allotment at Barnfield where the allotment holder had cut down weeds/grass and left them piled against the boundary wall was raised, as they were now causing a problem to the person living in the house which backs onto the plot. The BAA Chairman had agreed to deal with this. (Action Alan B to follow up)
October: Meeting cancelled.
November: No attendance
- Sandra agreed to attend December's meeting and Maggie agreed to go in January.

- b) No other meetings had been attended. Maggie reported she had resigned from Floral Crediton.

7. AGM follow-up

a) Lessons learnt. It was agreed:

- i. more publicity should be in place in future, and specifically to check that emails sent to the Crediton Courier are received as there appeared to be a problem this time.
- ii. to revert to Monday, as the change of day had not proved successful.
- iii. Prizewinners should be informed in advance and encouraged to attend the AGM and receive their awards.
- iv. **Mon 18th October** was set for the next AGM, with Nov 1st as the reserve date. (*Action: Alan B to book the Boniface Centre*).

b) Items to follow up.

- i. **Barnfield gate.** The slope of the entrance is causing the problems, not the gate itself. The ground used to be lower and now needs to be dug down again to enable vehicle access. (*Action: Alan S to get quotes for digging the area down*).
- ii. **Exhibition Road ditch.** It was noted that technically the allotment holders may be responsible for this, but it was agreed in this case it may be a 'bigger issue' and possibly needed to be addressed by the Highways Authority. (*Action: Alan B to talk to the relevant allotment holders and get a better understanding of the problem, and also to discuss with Richard Adams*).
- iii. **Exhibition Road hedge.** It was reported the Town Council have this in hand and are commissioning the work.
- iv. **Barnfield hedge.** It was agreed that the tenants whose allotments backed onto Barnfield Hill should be contacted to sound out their response to planting a hedge along the top of their allotments. Also to approach Town Council to get their view on it. (*Action: Sandra to discuss with Town Council. Penni and Maggie to draft notes to allotment holders*).
- v. **Beehives.** There was some concern and surprise at a suggestion hives should be 50metres from the nearest planting. (*Action: Sandra to get in touch with the beekeeper and invite him to the next committee meeting*).
- vi. **Seed swapping.** Using the noticeboards was seen as the best way forward.
- vii. **Allotment open days.** To discuss at a later meeting (*Action: to be put on an agenda in 2010 for further discussion*).

8. **Waiting lists and unkempt allotments.** Two Barnfield plots were reported as of concern; plot 1 and plot 8A. In both cases the tenants had, or were being, contacted. The tenants on plot 1 have paid for this year, and intend working on it 'in the New Year'. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

9. Any other business.

- a) Food Fayre (June 12/13th 2010). The Allotment Association were invited to be involved, and the committee felt this was appropriate.

- b) It was agreed that we should begin to campaign for more allotments in Crediton.
A letter will be drafted making the case, which will be sent to the Town Council.

10. Date of next committee meeting was set for Jan 25th.

The meeting closed at 21.15