

Boniface Allotments Association

Committee meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January at 19.30 in the Council Offices

Present: Mr Alan Bellamy, Ms Sandra Chalton, Mr Bill Parr, Mr Alan Stewart, Ms Maggie Stewart, Ms Anita Munson

1. **Apologies: Ms Penni Tearle**

2. **Minutes of the meeting** on 30th November 2009. These were accepted and signed.

3. **Matters arising:**

- a) **Barnfield Gate.** Alan Stewart reported that 3 contractors had expressed an interest in leveling the entrance from Cherry Gardens into Barnfield. So far, only 1 had submitted a quote. There are 3 matters which need to be addressed before a detailed proposal can be submitted to the Town Council: where to place the spoil; possible destabilizing of gate posts; type of surface, turf or chippings. It was also felt that holders of plots which might be affected by any change in the slope of the track, should be approached. (*Action: AS to chase other contractors and finalise proposal*)
- b) **Exhibition Road ditch.** The Chairman reported that clearance was still being looked into.
- c) **Exhibition Road hedge.** The Chairman reported that most had been cut back improving light and accessibility to adjacent plots.
- d) **Barnfield hedge.** Sandra reported on her conversation with the Assistant Town Clerk. We need to get the agreement of tenants of plots adjacent to the hedge and then to submit a formal application to the Town Council.
- e) **Barnfield boundary.** The Chairman reported that the problem with rubbish heaped against the fence had been resolved.
- f) **Joint tenancies.** Sandra reported that, in the event of the death of a plot holder, 'inheritance' of the plot by the widow/er or partner is not automatic. It is at the discretion of the Town Council.

4. **Town Council meetings:**

December: No attendance

January: No meeting held.

5. **Beehives on the allotments**

Sandra Chalton reported that she had spoken to a local beekeeper. He was of the opinion that allotments were not a suitable location for beehives because of the close proximity of houses. It is necessary to leave a space of at least 12 feet around hives.

6. Events and activities for 2010:

- I. **Allotment open days:** These would be for plot holders only and would allow tenants from one site to visit the 2 other sites. Adverts would be placed on noticeboards. (*Action: Chairman to look at suitable dates*)
- II. **Crediton Food Fayre:** We need to find out who is organizing the 'Grow your own stall' (*Action: Maggie to contact Linda Lever from the Crediton Climate Action Group*)
- III. **Other plans/ideas:**
 - a) Seed swapping: Notices on the boards seem the best option. The Crediton Garden Club has organized its own scheme for seed swapping.
 - b) Visits to local growers was suggested.

7. Living memorial for Miles Haggard: tree planting

- I. Bill Parr volunteered to contact Miles' widow informally about the plot and the contents of the shed.
- II. The Chairman expressed concern about where a tree would be planted (*Action: discuss at next meeting*)

8. Making the case for more allotments in Crediton

Sandra reported on her conversation with the Assistant Town Clerk:

- a) A written application to Crediton Town Council is required.
- b) The waiting list is probably not long enough to justify more allotments.
- c) The National Society of Leisure and Allotment Gardeners should be contacted for advice on legal requirements and how to make an effective application.

An apprenticeship scheme was again suggested, whereby volunteer plot holders would take on new plot holders and provide support and guidance. (*Action: to discuss at future meetings*)

9. Any other business

The Chairman confirmed he had booked the Boniface Centre for 18th October 2010, for the AGM.

10 Date of next committee meeting was set for 22nd March 2010 (*Action: Chairman to book Council Chamber*)

The meeting closed at 21.00