

Boniface Allotments Association

Committee meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on May 24th at 19.30 in the Council Offices

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

1. **Apologies:** Mr Alan Stewart, Ms Maggie Stewart
2. **Minutes of the meeting** on 22nd March 2010. These were accepted and signed.
3. **Matters arising:**

Numbering of 'new' allotments: This had been raised with Town Council. (*Action: PT to ask Town Council for best way forward*).

Trees at the top of Barnfield: It was reported that the Bullace has been planted, but its stake was broken when area was strimmed. Also there are now signs of leaf curl aphid on two trees. It was suggested that mushroom compost would be helpful. (*Action: SC to approach Town Council to ask for £25 for the compost*).

Seed Swapping/links to Crediton Garden Club: The Garden Club had asked if one of our committee members would like to be on their committee. Alternatively maybe an allotment holder was a member of the garden club and would be willing to do this. To date no-one had come forward.

4. **Town Council meetings:**

April: Attended by AS and PT.

- (i) Problem regarding water on Exhibition Road. Agreed BAA would discuss whether a replacement tap or a water trough would be better.
- (ii) The Barnfield gate proposal. It was agreed that no decision would be made until Richard Adams had looked at the site which he would do before the following meeting.

May: Attended by AS.

AS report regarding Barnfield gate was circulated. The committee welcomed the Council decision to release funds for the work to be carried out. AS was thanked for his work on this matter.

5. **Barnfield site update**

a) **Gate:** As above.

b) **Hedge:** Most people who have allotments along Barnfield Hill have been asked and have agreed as long as Town Council will both plant and maintain. Plot holders were not prepared to take responsibility for that. Three particular reasons for wanting this hedge were noted:

(i) School buses passing twice a day is not pleasant if you are working there

(ii) Wildlife

(iii) Security and privacy for the site. (*Action: SC to discuss with Council*).

Of the two projects it was agreed that the gate should have priority over the hedge.

6. **Events and activities for 2010**

AB had posted notices on both sites about the open day at Exhibition Road on June 26th

7. Crediton Food Fayre:

Volunteers were needed to help. MS had agreed to go in the morning, Alan B in the afternoon. SC offered to bring up some produce to go on the stand.

8. Bonfires

PT explained the recent problem regarding a bonfire on the Exhibition Road site. She had made a poster for Barnfield site and left AB materials to do the same on Exhibition Road site. WP and AB offered to have a quiet word with the tenant whose fire had caused a problem, but first they needed to try and find out which plot it was on as this was not yet known.

9. Availability of water on both sites

Regarding the problem on Exhibition Road, taps were seen as preferable although it was recognised that they would need to be replaced quite frequently. Some concern about standing water was raised with troughs, and also the size of the trough needed to allow people to totally fill watering cans. It was noted that currently for 60 plots there was only one water supply.

Additional points for a tap would be welcomed on both sites, but in particular Exhibition Road and it was agreed we should agree a plan for this and present it to Council. (*Action: to bring ideas to next meeting and from that draw up single plan*)

10. BAA committee and meetings

- i. It was noted that Moffats Land was still not represented on the Committee, but several attempts had been made to recruit someone. There was also seen to be a need to increase committee members from Exhibition Road site.
- ii. It was felt that the current 2 monthly meetings rather than 3 monthly was better in order to work closely with Town Council.
- iii. Concern was expressed about security with the door open downstairs during our meetings held upstairs. In future the Committee decided to hold meetings downstairs to address this.
- iv. The meeting agreed that members who didn't come to meetings or send apologies should be contacted after missing a couple of meetings to check they were still prepared to serve on the committee. As it was a small committee to have a couple of people missing regularly made a difference.

11. Any other business

Date of next committee meeting was set for 19 July 2010 (*Action: Chairman to book Council Chamber*)

The meeting closed at 21.00