

Boniface Allotments Association Committee meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on July 19th at 19.30 in the Council Offices

Present: Mr Alan Bellamy, Ms Gudrun Ley, Mr Alan Stewart, Ms Penni Tearle.

1. **Apologies:** Ms Sandra Chalton, Mr Bill Parr, Ms Maggie Stewart
2. **Minutes of the meeting** on 24th May 2010. These were accepted and signed.
3. **Matters arising:**

- a. Six people had attended the open day at Exhibition Road.

4. **Town Council meetings:**

May: Attended by MS. The Assistant clerk reported that:

- b. Payment for the mulch for trees was approved
- c. The contractor was to be approached regarding the modification of the Barnfield gateway.

June: Attended by PT. The Assistant clerk reported that:

- a. There were 2 vacant plots currently being allocated
- b. He was trying to contact people who had not responded to letters (BAA noted they were also working on this)
- c. Water at Moffats Land needed to be re connected before any other water issues could be addressed.
- d. Had to check there was no problem with utilities before doing any digging around Barnfield gate area

(Action AB to check on progress of water at Moffats)

Crediton Garden Club: It was reported that Christine Dunne had agreed to represent BAA in the context of the Crediton Garden Club.

5. **Availability of water**

- a. Concern was expressed about low water pressure at Exhibition Road in particular.
- b. An additional tap is definitely needed at Barnfield, but it was felt it was NOT helpful to mend the tap on the roadside until a hedge was in place.

6. **Consistency for dealing with unmanaged plots and current situation**

PT reported that letters had been sent to 3 people on the Barnfield site about problems with uncultivated plots, and a further person had been approached informally in person. No response to any of the letters had been received and all three plots still remained a cause for concern although some signs of 'activity' were noted. It was agreed that we would recommend to Town Council that two of those plot holders are offered only half of their plots to re-lease in September.

AB reported that 3 plots on Exhibition Road were giving cause for concern. *(Action: PT to draft letters)*

AS noted comments had been made by several people living near the Barnfield site regarding the poor state of one allotment on that site. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to this plot holder. (**Action:** *PT to draft letter*)

7. Waiting list management and update

It was noted that 6 people who had been at the top of the list, but not contactable were now to come off the list. Three had confirmed they no longer wanted and allotment and three had moved house.

It was agreed that anyone who was offered an allotment but felt unable to accept at that particular time, needed to provide some clear timescale and reason, or be moved back to the bottom of the list. Some of the earlier waiting list difficulties had been caused by people being continually 'too busy' and remaining at the top of the list for considerable time.

8. AGM planning

It was noted the Boniface Centre was booked for 18th October.

It was agreed that instead of an external speaker some allotment holders and other local contacts would be invited to talk about a specific subject for 5 or 10 minutes.

Ideas raised were:

Pulses: *Alan Stewart*.

Herbs: *Sandra Chalton* (to be invited)

Trees: *CreditonTree group* (to be invited)

Everyone would be encouraged to bring to the AGM one recipe they used for produce from their allotment, and possibly a taster of the 'outcome' of the recipe, eg jam, chutney, cake etc. These would then be compiled into a 'recipe book'. Details to be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Any other business

Concern was noted about the current arrangements for excavating the Barnfield gateway. The Council are to provide scalplings, but there is possible confusion about what work is ordered and who is doing which bit (for example the breathable membrane). It was felt some re-negotiation of cost and work may be needed.

(**Action:** *Alan S to discuss with Town Council*)

Date of next committee meeting was set for September 20th 2010 (**Action:** *Chairman to book Council Chamber*)

The meeting closed at 21.10