

Boniface Allotments Association

Committee meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on September 20th at 19.30 in the Council Offices

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

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes of the meeting** on 19th July 2010. These were accepted and signed.

3. **Matters arising:**

Water. Moffats Land is now reconnected, Exhibition Road is mended and Barnfield is due to be mended shortly.

Barnfield Gateway. Work due to start 22nd September.

4. **Meetings attended:**

Town Council GPC meeting September: Attended by MS

It was reported that:

- i. the waiting list was about 26 people, and seemed this number of .
- ii. a few changes to the tenancy agreement were made after some recent confusion.
- iii. approval was given to one allotment holder who had asked to be allowed to put a wooden compost bin on their Barnfield plot.
- iv. the matter of bees on allotments was raised. Council decided unanimously, for a number of reasons that this was not to be allowed.

People to attend future Council meetings: October: AB, November: GL, December: AB.

Presentation evening: Attended by MS and AS.

Tony Connell will no longer be judging allotments. It seems that a new judge will be needed. The committee agreed that we should consider finding someone ourselves and put the idea to Council. In reporting on this year's judging Mr Connell noted that some plots showed signs of lack of management and he felt that smaller plots would be helpful for tenants where required. He suggested that plots should be handed over to new tenants cleared, and that support should be available for new plot holders. It was agreed these ideas should be discussed at a future meeting.

Risk Assessment exercise: Attended by AB

A detailed check list was used. A number of concerns were raised by those undertaking the exercise, but in particular uncovered water butts. Other issues were uneven paths, and scrap metal. The matter of metal sheds was noted. The committee expressed some surprise that uncovered water butts were viewed as such an important issue, feeling that uneven paths and scrap metal were potentially of a greater concern to safety. In discussing risk assessment it was noted there was some confusion about who was responsible for the 'path' at the bottom of the Barnfield allotments. This area is technically not part of the allocated allotment and is not being maintained. The committee were given a key to Moffats Land which is kept locked. There was some confusion about the tenant on plot 1 on Moffats land (*Action: PT to follow up with Town Council*)

5. Bees on allotments

See 4(iv)

6. Contract renewals

New contracts are being issued in the coming week. We have asked Town Council to hold renewal notices for a number of people as we are in the process of communicating with them (details on confidential paper presented at meeting) as their plots are not fully cultivated or being managed. It was agreed that the Committee should decide on what action to take for each of the 7 plot holders and then ask Council to issue contracts accordingly. (*Action: AB to view and make decision*)

7. Newsletter

The draft Newsletter was circulated for comment and with minor edits agreed. (*Action: PT to do proposed edits and send to Town Council*)

8. AGM planning

It was agreed that:

- i. Boniface Centre should be opened at 18.40 to prepare for the meeting
- ii. MS would bring tea/coffee etc.
- iii. A poster advertising the event would be made (*Action: PT to send previous one to MS to adapt*)
- iv. The draft agenda was considered and two points for discussion were added. These were about the judging of allotments and also about a planned allotment recipe book.

9. Any other business

- i. The hedge on the border of the Barnfield allotment will be ready for cutting late February early March.
- ii. It was unclear what the next step for the planned hedge on the Barnfield site along Barnfield Hill was. It was agreed this should be discussed at the next committee meeting and a plan prepared to present to Council. (*Action: SC to prepare a plan for discussion*)

Date of next committee meeting was set for 1st November 2010 (*Action: Chairman to book Council Chamber*)

The meeting closed at 21.37