

Gertie Gales Allotment Committee Meeting

28th June 2016

Those present:

Bob Shepherd – Treasurer
Judith Arnold – Secretary
Gillian Lee-Jones – Site Liason
Ron Bolton - Committee member
Les Curwood – Plot holder
Mary Card – Plot holder
David Curnock – Plot holder
Brian Jones – Plot holder

Apologies

Andrew Cooper - Councillor
Kate Strong – Plot holder
Deb Herbert – Plot Holder
Roger Howard – Plot holder
Evelyn Grounsell – Plot holder
John and Lesley Cottrell – Plot holders

Review of last minutes

Discussion took place on the vacant role of the Chairperson. Those present were asked if anyone would like to volunteer for the role, but there was no-one. Therefore there could be no signing of the minutes from the last meeting and no formal meeting could take place.

Bob pointed out that without a Chair, the finances of the group would soon falter as the signatory was needed for the cheques.

ACTION Judith reported that she had received suggestions of John Cottrell and Andrew Arnold for the role of Chair. Neither were present, so she agreed to follow that up with firm offers to them.

Informal discussions covering the following:

Finances.

The finances of the group were discussed by Bob. Thanks to Gillian's work with re-allocating plots, the annual income will hit its target and allow a surplus at the end of the year, enough to cover the first water instalment payment without a rent increase.

Plot allocation.

All plots are full , except for one half plot. However there are several half plots and a couple of full plots not being worked at all.

ACTION Gillian to get in touch with these plot holders, giving them a period of 28 days to start to work their plots and a reminder that 75% of any plot is meant to be under cultivation.

There are still 3 people on waiting list to take on any vacant plots.

ACTION Continue publicity of vacant plots on noticeboard as they become available. (Gillian)

Site Maintenance

Reported back that the condition of the shed was our responsibility. Inside, the tools and wheelbarrows need to be sorted as it is believed that a lot of old equipment is in there from former allotmenters.

Another working party needs to be set up to tidy the area around the car park. Very few volunteers ever turn up on a Saturday, plus some people do not have the equipment to do the tidy up required. Discussion centred on possibility of removing the mound and erecting a fence with grass up to it that could be mowed. The soil could be taken down to the bottom of the site that is waterlogged.

ACTION Gillian to select a date for shed clearance and tidy up on same day, preferably before the summer recess begins.

Any other Business

- Discussion on timing of rental payments. Ron reported that another allotment site owner had suggested it was moved earlier in year (January) to give opportunity for people to relinquish plots and new people to take over with enough time to clear land and plant that year.
ACTION Bob replied that the viability of this would need to be looked into and worked through.
- Discussion of website. Felt it was too static and out of date with news.
ACTION Les to update it with dates of meetings (to be sorted in advance once new Chair takes over), names and faces of committee members, availability of plots., minutes of meetings.
- **ACTION** Judith to organise date and venue of next meeting, ASAP. Bob offered his home as possible venue.