

## Gertie Gale Allotment Committee Meeting. 6th September 2016

### Those present:

Judith Arnold - Secretary  
Andrew Arnold – Plot holder  
Bob Shepherd - Treasurer  
Ron Bolton - Committee member  
John Cottrell -Committee Member  
Les Curwood - Website Member  
Gillian Lee Jones - Site Liaison  
Roger Howard - Committee member  
Andy Luton - Committee member

### Position of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

It was agreed that these positions would be filled as follows:

Andrew Arnold - chair  
John Cottrell - vice chair  
Andy Luton - vice vice chairman

### Finances.

Bob presented figures up to end of August. Should hit target on rent.

Suggestion of timing of paying rent - prior to April - in order to get people on plots at start of year rather than delaying. This will boost rental income at start of year. Get bills out at start of February and state plots will be released if no payment by April 1st. "Your plot may well be re let if you don't pay." **Action- Bob**

Spending lot of money on grass - are we getting as much cut as we should be, particularly down the long side next to cemetery. **Action - Gillian to chase up with Sams**

### **Gardening.**

Review of plot take up - only 1 plot free at present, very under used. Thanks to Gillian for sorting this out so effectively. 2b needs checking. **Action – Gillian**

### Report from council on hedge maintenance and tree problems.

Still no report back from Council. Meant to have been reviewed in June. **Action - John to discuss with Lesley**

Nettles down the side track needs strimming/poisoning. Can we ask Andy to ask Sam to clear nettles back for last couple of mows? **Action – Gillian**

### Last clear up days.

Response from some site owners during the week before hand, but same people all the time. Insufficient involvement by most plot owners. In tenancy agreement, there is an expectancy that all site owners will help to clear communal areas.

Need people to be more pro-active and clear areas when they can do so. 4 weekends to be organised and publicised well in advance - people to sign up for a shift. **Action - Gillian**

Separate newsletter out to all plot holders to be written with a date for a clearance in the Autumn - 15/16 th October. Also stating that plot rent will have to increase to compensate for extra help to keep site clear. **Action - Andrew and Judith**

### **Bank at top of site.**

Stuart has quoted 200 pounds to flatten and remove it. Discussion on viability of spending this money. And subsequent increased cost of mowing. Suggest finding any group who wants to use the plots near the car parks - autistic, community, stroke groups. Sponsored by Travis Perkins? Disabled beds? Old tarpaulins? **Action - ?????? All of us.** Mobility place on the high street? Decision not to go ahead with flattening bank at present.

### **Website design.**

Good job made of this by Les. Lots of visitors, regular visitors each day. And has helped in re-allocation of plots.

Needs more publicity - sign on shed, put website in email minutes and on newsletter.

**Action - Les – shed, and Andrew – Newsletter**

Other ideas include web links on site for help, individuals writing articles to email to Les, a problem page.

### **AOB**

Lots of wasps on site looking for nests.

Portishead in Bloom - Pleased with what we were doing but suggested that there were areas for improvement - composting, fruit trees, water reuse. Response was this was that none of these were allowed by council. Can we put to Council that these are needed to be green?

Lots of detritus down bottom of site - compost bins etc stored on edge. How much is still there? We could redistribute these for others, place at top of site instead for people to use.

Question when wood chippings will be delivered again. **Action - Gillian to approach council and Sam to get delivery.**

Shed at top - usage of equipment stored in shed. Organize date to declare interest in equipment.

Gate needs adjusting - **Andy Luton to sort out.**

**Gillian** to pass on details of wildlife talk to pass out to everyone.

### **Dates of next meetings**

15th November , 7th February , 28th March for AGM **Action - Judith to organise venue**

**The landlord at The Albion has kindly offered for us to use the meeting room on the above dates.**