

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date of meeting: **Saturday 10th April 2021**

In Attendance: Simon Wilson, Geoff Farmer, Mike Jones, Mike Worrall, Phil Clark, Betty Houston, John Mercer

Apologies from: Angela Farmer

Membership numbers. **80**

Details of vacant plots. **None**

Number of people on waiting list. **30**

- During the last twelve months, the NSALG has reported a national uplift of 45% in the number of applications for allotments. The number of applications that we have received has been even greater than this; closer to a 200% rise above the normal rate. It was agreed that notification of the rise in applications will be sent to the Town Council, to ensure that they are kept fully aware of the current level of demand.

Treasurers report: **Bank balance. £4,041.62**

Petty Cash. **£419.40**

General site maintenance (hedges / mowing / water supply):

- The roadside hedge has been clipped by contractor during the winter months; the invoice is outstanding.
- Following the initial switching-on of the water last weekend, a number of leaks were identified and have now been fixed.
- The pallet supporting the water tank (Plot 37) has collapsed. The tank needs to be lifted and re-set on concrete blocks. This project has been scheduled for 17th April.
- Advice has been sought from a locksmith, regarding options for securing the two entrance gates. With the heavy usage, it is recognised that the existing padlocks have a finite lifespan and it is not possible to purchase replacement padlocks, to match our existing keys. To future-proof the security of the gates, weather proof resettable padlocks will be purchased in due course and fixed. Members will of course be notified of the code.
- Plots 1A & 1B have not yet been let due to concerns relating to the parking of additional vehicles. These plots will be shortly sprayed-off for weed. It is envisaged that additional parking spaces will be made available at the top of plot 2, within the next couple of months, at which point 1A / B will be let.
- The "Allotment Warning" sign situated to the south of the site, on the verge of the Welsh Road has been flattened. The Town Council will be notified.

Individual plots causing concern (going to seed):

- Following the Easter weekend, Geoff and Simon inspected the site as a whole and specifically identified seven plots which caused concern regarding the lack of maintenance. These seven plots holders have all been contacted and action to rectify the issues has now taken place on all seven plots.

AOB:

- Gary Langford has requested that he join the committee. It was universally agreed that he should be welcomed to serve.
- The members of the committee agreed that they were all happy to continue serving on the committee. Mike Jones however gave notice that by the time of issuing this year's invoices, he wishes to hand over the role of Treasurer. Mike confirmed that he was happy to continue as a committee member.
- ***The roles of Secretary and Treasurer are now vacant. Both of the roles require a modicum of I.T. skills. Any members who would be willing to fill these roles should contact Simon (Mob: 07714652319).***
- Simon raised the topic of the current pricing structure of our plot rentals. He suggested the possibility of simplifying the rates. The general opinion of the committee was that the current pricing structure was not unduly complicated and since our bank balance was in a 'healthy' situation, it was unnecessary to change the current structure.
- There have been no further developments regarding the non-payment of our water bill. Severn Trent are now billing solely for residential supply and have passed our account, along with 'commercial' contracts, to an organisation called Water Plus. Frustratingly, we have not been able to get Water Plus to 'adopt' us. Mike Jones has had verbal confirmation that we will not be liable to more than 18 months supply however, for the sake of clarity it is important that this matter is concluded.
- Concern was raised about the gap in our boundary hedge at the bottom of Plot 14. Before filing the gap (eg with fencing / hedge planting) Simon offered to discuss the issue with the neighbour.

Next Meeting: Thursday 13th May (to be confirmed)