

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date of meeting: Thursday 27th May 2021

In Attendance: Simon Wilson, Geoff Farmer, Angela Farmer, Mike Jones, Mike Worrall, Phil Clark, Betty Houston, Gordon Woodward, Gary Langford.

Apologies from: John Mercer, Amy Woodward

Membership numbers. 80

Details of vacant plots. None

Number of people on waiting list. 35

- An open discussion was had regarding the ever-growing waiting list for plots. The idea of seeking extra ground was discussed, as was the possibility of restricting new applications strictly to residents of Southam. In the meantime it was universally thought to be a good idea to create a few smaller, 'Starter Plots' (an eighth of a full plot) for some of those at the top of the waiting list. These 'Starter Plots' will allow new members to demonstrate their level of commitment, prior to being offered larger plot, as and when they become available. These 'Starter Plots' will be created on Plot One.

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Treasurers report: Bank balance. £4,041.62

Petty Cash. £406.14

We have an out-standing invoice for the clipping of the front hedge.

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

The pallet supporting the water tank (Plot 37) has now been re-set on concrete blocks

We are in the process of mounting new locks on the two front gates. The locks used are of a weather proof, re-set table variety. Members have been notified of the mode of operation of the locks and the code - Many thanks to John Higgins for his assistance in this project.

Since our last meeting, we have suffered a break-in, into the site. A number of sheds were broken in to, as was the site container. It appears that the offenders were interrupted during the break-in, because the machines that had been taken out of sheds, had been left strewn on the site. The offence was reported to the police - Many thanks to Robert Baxter for his assistance in repairing the damage to the site container.

Plots 1A & 1B have been sprayed-off for weed. The adjacent Plot 2A is being made vacant and will be used to create additional parking spaces specifically for tenants on Plot One.

Southam Town Council have been notified about the broken "Allotment Warning" sign, situated to the south of the site, on the verge of the Welsh Road. The Town Clerk has confirmed that the issue has been forwarded to the Highways Department.

A 'fractured tap' has been reported on the water tank on Plot 37. The tank is still serviceable however; the tap will be repaired in due course.

Simon has had a friendly discussion with the people in the property neighbouring Plot 14. There is a gap in our boundary hedge at this point and a mutually acceptable way of securing this gap was agreed.

Individual plots causing concern (going to seed):

Since our April meeting, Geoff and Simon inspected the plots and contacted tenants whose plots were falling below an acceptable standard. Four tenants were contacted. Three gave assurances that improvements would be made in the near future. One tenant has given notice on their plot.

Geoff and Simon aim to carry out a further inspection before our June meeting.

AOB:

The role of Treasurer has now been passed from Mike Jones, to Amy Woodward (Plot 37C/D). Many thanks to Mike for filling this role so effectively for the passed four years. Mike is happy to remain on the committee.

The role of Secretary remains vacant. The main task of our Secretary is to record meeting minutes and have them posted on the site notice boards and our website . Any member who would be willing to fill this role should contact Simon (Mob: 07714652319).

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.

Plot Judging this year will take place on Tuesday 27th July. Similar to last, two representatives from Wellesbourne Allotments have agreed to judge the plots. John Mercer has agreed to assist with the judging of their plots.

Stratford Council have advertised an upgrade in their CCTV scheme. Simon will contact SDC to enquire whether their improved infrastructure might be able to include cover for our allotment site.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 30th June 2021 @ 7:30pm