

Marlow Allotments Association

The meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Present:- Juliette Chanoir (Chair), M Talbot (Treasurer), S. Miller (Secretary),

(Committee Members) D. Bagge, J. Stilliard, R. Harker

1. Apologies for absence – Fred, Pete,
2. Appointment of Minutes Secretary - SM
3. YE Report replacing AGM and any matters arising from this – no matter raised
4. Treasurer's report – MT reported that membership is higher than at this time last year, the subscription to NSALG is due to be paid for membership of the National organisation, advising that the fee remains the same as in previous years. The online seed orders are not currently processed by Kings due to a back log created by staff shortages, however the manual green order form can be processed although deliveries may be slower.
5. Waiting lists, vacant & neglected plots. There no vacant plots and 30 people on the waiting list: FP10, HH13 and 7 for either site. MTC will do a preliminary walk around plots now with a view to a formal inspection in April. Tenants should contact MTC by March to seek help if they are unable to start cultivation. SM will flag this up to all tenants in the newsletter.
6. Membership ratio currently stands at: FP 51 Members the Ratio 46%, HH 80 members the Ratio 59%, total memberships 131, overall Ratio per household of 53%. It is important to be aware that should there be a threat to either site, without the majority of tenants as Members, we do not have a voice to represent the site.
7. Surplus Crop – As we all know tenants at both sites leave their surplus crop & seeds near the main Gates for others to benefit from. A tenant from FP has suggested that a small unobtrusive table or shelf is constructed near each gate to facilitate this. MTC have given permission for us to organise this on each site. - FT not keen may lead to dumping. PC has offered to fix shelving at HH & a FP tenant has offered at FP, these will be monitored regularly.
8. Marlow Home Growers – they have approached MAA with a request that they place a container with a large notice/sign promoting the Home Growers outside each gate on both sites, for tenants to leave any surplus crop or seeds that others can collect. This would need to be monitored by a volunteer (assume from MAA but can check) - The Committee are reluctant to take this on, as there is already a system in place on both sites for surplus crop and seeds.
9. Chicken Pellets and Blue Barrels – the supply of blue barrels appears to have ceased for now until the business picks up, SM is no longer prepared to store the chicken pellets therefore should demand from members increase an alternative solution will be organised.
10. Events and bonfires – there are plans for an OpenAir Picnic on site if rules relax, MTC may consider relaxing the bonfire ruling before the end of April, MAA propose to supply a short guide of 'do's and don'ts' for tenants to follow to prevent excessively smoky fires, which MTC are keen to consider. SM will liaise with MTC.
11. Newsletter – this will cover matters from this meeting, including bonfires & inspections plus offer of surplus tools to members.
12. AOB Additional tap at HH – MTC advise that once the Community Service Volunteers return this will be installed. *Non-renewals* plots re-let HH 7plots and FP9plots. *Wildlife areas* – the MTC Consultant near the end of the 6 month contract. DB will contact MTC regarding areas at FP that require maintenance. MT pointed out that a lot of time and energy has been spent assisting MTC with the problem of rent paid by tenants to MAA in error, these have now all been resolved by either refunding the funds to the tenant or forwarding on to MTC, who have professed their gratitude for the efficient way that MAA handled this problem. It is hopeful that the Competition will resume this year – SM will follow up with MTC.
13. Date of next meeting – t.b.a. hopefully April or May on site, wait to see any relaxing of rules???