

THE MARLOW ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting on Wednesday 5 June 2019 @ 3 The Chase

Present :- Mr F. Tillier (Chair), Mrs S. Miller (Secretary), Mrs M. Talbot (Treasurer),
Mr P. Cooper, Ms D. Bagge, Mr J. Stilliard (Minutes)

1. **Apologies for absence.** None.
2. **Minutes and matters arising from last meeting.** Agreed.
3. **The Treasurer reported** that membership was currently 118. There had been good progress in relation to the sale of chicken pellets and the seed scheme. Outgoings included the annual subscription of £375 to the National Society; and £139 for Public Liability Insurance. A new website contract was now needed and a 3 year deal was discussed and agreed by the committee.
4. **Waiting lists and vacant plots.** Foxes Piece has no vacant plots and 5 on the waiting list. Hanging Hill has 3 vacant plots and no waiting list. MTC had sent letters out to tenants of neglected plots. PC suggested that vacant plots at HH could be sprayed with herbicide to bring them under control. **Action:** SM to check latest state of play on review of neglected plots at FP. SM to check whether MTC is prepared to pay for the spraying of plots at HH.
5. **Newsletter.** The committee discussed the importance of ensuring that all members get a newsletter. Members would continue to be urged to transfer to an email copy but where necessary they would be delivered by hand.
6. **Events.** There had been a disappointing turn out for the excellent orchid talk. Future talks would be by ticket to ensure that there was a better idea of committed interest. Possible talks/events in the coming months included: dahlias; bees; and a security camera display. The Open Day idea would not be pursued – anyone expressing an interest to MTC could be taken on a personal tour. The barbecue at the end of May was a success and the next one would be on the last Saturday in June. **Action:** SM.
7. **Ex Play Area Foxes Piece.** There was no news to report.
8. **Website.** The website was in the process of handover to a new committee member (Loredana Cornea) - thanks were expressed to Scott for all his work. The committee discussed possible items for the website, for example on poisonous plants and on pests and diseases. **Action:** SM and PC to liaise.
8. **AGM 2019.** The AGM would be on 7 November 2019. A planning meeting was arranged for 25 September.
9. **Disposal of waste: MTC proposal on taking a deposit**
The committee discussed concerns about the MTC's possible "introduction of a deposit payable on new allotment tenancies and on allotment renewals in October 2019"¹. This had arisen because charges were now being made on a range of waste items taken to the dump and concerns about what might be left on plots. The committee discussed the extreme difficulties MTC staff would face in administering such a scheme fairly and effectively. The committee therefore concluded that the position of the Association was to oppose the scheme.
10. **Other MTC issues:** Clarification that 15 poles be allowed for a household. Collection of fees from members at the same time as tenancies are paid. **Action:** SM to check on progress.
10. **Marlow Allotments sites history.** A tenant has offered to take the lead on this work. **Action:** SM to liaise with Peter England about a handover.
Next meeting: 15 August 2019.

¹ MTC minutes of meeting with MAA on 15 April 2019.