

## THE MARLOW ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019

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.**
  1. None received.
  
2. **Appointment of Minutes Secretary.**
  1. Agreed that John Stilliard would take the minutes.
  
3. **Minutes of the committee meeting held 31/10/2018.**
  1. All present agreed they were a true record of the meeting and these are on the Notice boards.
  
4. **Matters arising.**
  1. Chiltern road parking. Sylvia has taken a photo of the offending vehicle and we will be putting up a sign on the gate. She suggested a 'softly/softly' approach. **Action SM.**
  2. Website. Sylvia will talk to the website manager re updates to the website. **Action SM.**
  3. Foxes Piece & Hanging Hill track repair. The council will be doing these before the end of the financial year. The payback team have shifted some of the soil at H.H on the track and recent car park extension. Next financial year the council is looking at completing the H.H fence line.
  
5. **Treasurer's report & membership update.**
  1. Maren Talbot tabled the accounts for November 2018 to October 2019 and walked through them to ensure they were understood. Points arising:- Insurance is due in June. Denise Bagge handed over 2 memberships. It was agreed that the finances looked to be in a good position. There are 37 members at F.P and @50 at H.H.
  
6. **Waiting lists and vacant plots.**
  1. At F.P there are 5 plots vacant and 3 on the waiting list
  2. At H.H there are 12 plots vacant (note 1 is not really viable) and 4 on the waiting list.
  3. Maren Talbot has helped with leafletting the library.
  4. There was a discussion on the size in Square Meters of a 5 pole plot. It was agreed that Sylvia will request the definitive answer from Debbie at MTC. **Action SM.**
  5. It was suggested and agreed that at the next working party meeting with MTC that the option of including membership of MAA as part of the rent process be explored. Denise Bagge will provide a form of words for this in the format of the current MTC request. **Action DB.**
  
7. **AGM & Minutes**

1. The Tea & Coffees provided by Pete Cooper went down well and yielded £20, which he donated to the MAA funds. Denise Bagge had handled the door well but some people were avoiding the attendance register and people coming in late were not registered.

2. Sylvia Miller to confirm with MTC that rents will not rise. **Action SM.**

3. Peter England will prepare a statement for the next newsletter thanking people.

5. It was suggested that a raffle could be held at the AGM; this was considered a good idea. It was also decided that a separate meeting be held before the next AGM specifically to determine how it should be run. This needs to be arranged around September. **Action SM.**

6. Maren Talbot said that the talk she was offering to give was on 'Growing orchids at Home'.

#### 8. **Events in 2019.**

1. Sylvia Miller said that only 3 people had expressed an interest in the wine talk and the orchid talk and that more people were needed to cover the costs of hiring a hall. This will be made clear in the next newsletter & more information will be supplied by Maren Talbot. **Action: SM & MT.**

2. A Bonfire & Barbeque event will be planned at H.H in April/May. **Action: SM.**

3. Mr Bailey will hold another dahlia talk at Foxes Piece next August.

#### 9. **Ex Play area at F.P.**

1. This is owned by the council. There is concern that the council may attempt to improve the saleability of the site by encroaching on the allotment site; which would not be acceptable. Sylvia Miller to ensure that MTC are aware of our position and objections prior to any planning permissions being raised. **Action SM.**

#### 10. **Advertising agreement**

1. It was agreed that it was sufficient for the secretary to sign for approval on behalf of MAA. This advertisement would proceed once the Committee had approved the draft of the notice. **Action: PC & SM.**

#### 11. **Winter work at Hanging Hill**

1. Work has been concentrated on increasing the Car Parking area on the left (facing hill). The payback team has helped to level this and it needs woodchip on it to prevent weeds coming through.

2. The Berwick rd. area needs work to allow people to use the paths to the 2 new plots.

3. Signs are needed for the car parks – Sylvia Miller to arrange. **Action SM.**

4. Denise Bagge is to go round F.P. & check if there are areas where work is needed and to notify MTC if there is. **Action DB.**

#### 12. **Marlow Allotment sites history**

1. Peter England said that he would complete this; Sylvia Miller to talk to him about it. **Action SM.**

### 13. **A.O.Bs**

#### 1. **A.G.M.**

1. Bill Kilner-Smith & neighbouring plot weeds. Sylvia Miller said that she had yet to speak with the neighbour. **Action: SM.**

2. Overhanging Leylandii. Fred Tillier asked MTC to write to the home owner, they confirmed they would. **Action FT.**

3. The allocation of larger than 5 pole plots was discussed. The problem here is how to determine the expertise of anyone new. It was felt that the current system was probably the best and people could always swap plots or request alternatives.

4. Starter plots were discussed. It was felt that this would be impractical as people would then have to move to a normal plot.

5. Rent increase. It was agreed that the committee should not discuss rent.

#### 2. **A.O.B**

1. Maren Talbot suggested that tenants should be handed a tenancy agreement by the MTC when they pay their rent and encouraged to read it.. It was agreed to bring this up at the next Working Party with MTC. **Action SM.**

2. Maren Talbot suggested that she should now manage the links to the National Society - Peter England used to do this. This was agreed.

3. Sylvia Miller should send out to the committee members the list of current tenants and their plots. **Action SM.**

4. The number of people on the committee who can sign cheques was discussed – at present only 2 people can in addition to MT. Denise Bagge is to be an additional signatory once the formalities have been completed. **Action MT & DB.**

5. Sylvia Miller discussed theft & damage. The upshot of this will be added to the newsletter.

7. The poor advertising the sale of Teas & Coffees at the AGM was discussed. It was agreed that this would be handled at the pre-AGM meeting

### 14. **Date of next Meeting**

1. It was agreed to be on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 & that only one meeting should be put forward at a time.