Minutes of Marlow Allotments Association meeting 03 July 2023 @ The Orchard

Present :- Huw Stevenson (Chair), Maren Talbot (Treasurer), Sylvia Miller (Secretary), John Stilliard (minutes), Denise Bagge, Richard Harker, Fred Tillier.

1. **Apologies for absence**. Ian Brown, Pete Cooper
2. **Appointment of Minutes secretary.** JS was appointed.
3. **Matters Arising.** Nothing was reported to come out from the last meeting and the minutes were accepted.
4. **Treasurer’s report.** This waspresented by MT. The insurance has been reduced by some £30 from last year which was welcomed. There were some very minor late additions to the receipts from the plant sale. The report was accepted.
5. **Waiting lists, vacant and neglected plots.** There are about 20 on the waiting list (11 FP, 8 HH and the balance either). There are no vacant plots at present but termination notices deadline is 09 July and there will be an official availability list after that date.
The triangle will be made available as plots but requires clearing that will be done by the community payback workers, MTC will organise this.
6. **Overhanging trees and shrubs.** It was discussed that the problems raised at the AGM were still largely unattended to. It was stated that the council had been very busy on other matters and that Melissa had sent out an email saying that it would be done. **ACTION SM** will email tenants to put in a request for action if they have problems**.** **Action – MTC to be advised of this**.
7. **AGM.** This has been booked for the 02 Nov 2023. It will be at the council offices **NOT** Liston Hall. **Action** **SM** to determine the exact location and time and confirm if council staff will be attending. Post meeting note - MTC Staff will attend the start of the meeting, the exact names are not yet confirmed.
SM stated that if committee members wished to put themselves forward to be re-elected then she must have their proposers & seconders (who must be Association Members) by the end of August. **Action – ALL**.
8. **Events.** The BBQ went well – 16 people attended; some still need to pay – SM will chase them.
It is hoped that there will be a Dahlia Talk in August. There may be another event in the Autumn.
9. **Plant Stand.** This was very successful. It was suggested by DB that next time the delivery time should be sufficiently before the sale time to allow the plants to be organised, priced, etc. All plants should be labelled. It was agreed that 1.5 hours should be enough to sell the plants. Cardboard boxes for purchasers would be useful. **Action DB to produce a couple of lines on the plant sale for the September newsletter.**
10. **Website Update**. The website is being maintained by Juliette – despite the fact that she now lives in Bourne End and no longer has a plot in Marlow. It was suggested that it would be a nice gesture if she was invited to the AGM and presented with a small present (value approx. £30) as a token of gratitude. This was agreed.
11. **AWP**. This has not been booked yet. SM asked if people had anything to bring up?
The rent will be increased in April 2024. Trees & Shrubs have been covered. Bonfires will be allowed, subject to regulations in Jan-Feb 2024; we will ask that for next year they are allowed Nov- December 2024.
Plot marking – JS said that many of the HH plots were not marked. MTC is planning to re-mark all plots.
It was reported that there were problems at FP with the boundary by the Doctors where there were abandoned sheds and large amounts of weed. Rats had been reported there as well. **Action SM to request help from MTC to clear this area** **– see AOB**
12. **Newsletter.** The next newsletter will be in September. It will mention the AGM and ask if anyone would like to join the committee.
13. **Woodchip Bays** A new supplier has started delivery. MT said that this had been delivered to the small car park at HH.  **Post Meeting note new supplier has been requested not to deliver again.**The second Wood Chip bay at FP has been dismantled and will be reassembled in a new position which will allow it to be filled easily.
14. **Judging.** Fred said thatplotsshould perhaps be divided into 5 pole & 10 pole plots and that someone who had a 5 pole and had a second plot should not be treated as a newcomer. He suggested that the two plots should be judged together and that 5/10 pole should be considered for next time. SM will conduct the judges at FP in August & then take them to the council to discuss their findings.
15. **AOB.** The £500 grant funds available was discussed. The options so far are a skip (6 yards – 30 odd bin bags) at both sites or natural hedgerow material. Other options suggested were repairs to gates if needed & cover for the communal area. **Action – put a call for suggestions into the AGM newsletter**FT said thatsome people were ‘water hogging’. Discuss this at the Working Party Meeting and draw attention to the potential to damaging the taps. **Action – discuss this with MTC and ask them to put out a statement on Water etiquette. Action complete – this will be done.**There is a lot of rubbish on FP 39a – it was cleared but the rubbish has not been taken away. **Action: request MTC to help. Action complete – the Community Volunteers will clear this and the overgrown area by the Health centre.**HS reported on a FP plot some people were clearing & were using abusive language. SM said that it was the plot holder’s responsibility for the behaviour of anyone on their plot and that a complaint should be filed with MTC. MT said that she had had problems with the owners of dogs off the lead. **Post meeting note this will be done once the actual plot number has been identified.**MT asked if she could spray the border of neglected plots to prevent bind weed crossing the paths. **Action – MT to send MTC an email asking if it was OK to spray up to 1ft on a neglected boundary.**It was noted that MTC will not allow plot holders to have individual BBQs on their plot. The BBQ at the Orchard in HH is available to members only and they can use it for private functions, but must have permission from MTC and the Association.
16. **Date of next meeting –** 07 August