

The Marlow Allotments Association



Minutes of the Allotments Meeting – 05.02.2024 at 11.30pm, Marlow Donkey

Attendance: Officers- Chair: Huw Stevenson (HS), Treasurer: Maren Talbot (MT), Secretary: Sylvia Miller (SM), Minutes Secretary: John Stilliard (JS), Denise Bagge (DB), Fred Tillier (FT) & Richard Harker (RH) Guest - Dee Marshall (DM)

Apologies: Pete Cooper, Ian Brown

Appointment of minutes secretary:- John Stilliard was appointed.

Matters Arising from the last meeting & AGM – from last meeting HS to supply details of sellable items uncovered from the clearance work carried out last time.

Treasurer's report & Membership Report - The Treasurer's report was tabled and discussed. MT said that a friend of hers will be sorting out an audio system for the next AGM.

MT has installed all the finance details and the underlying finance software onto another computer system so that there is security in case the existing system fails. MT reported that she had investigated a deposit account and was unable to find one. It was agreed not to pursue this. The report was accepted.

Waiting lists, vacant & neglected plots - SM reported that Debbie had inspected the plots in March, but as the weather has been so bad she had only made notes. She will be conducting another inspection in May or possibly June. Committee members were asked to send her a note if they notice any particularly poor plots. There are 4 Vacant plots at FP and 9 at HH but 2 of these are 10 pole to be split, these 2 at HH are in such a state that the MTC have said they can be had rent free for a year. Currently there are 7 people waiting for a plot at FP and 4 at HH; with 1 that could take either. SM said that she had produced an article for the Marlovian on Allotments & their benefits, since November 2023 she had let 25 plots.

Overhanging Trees & Shrubs - DB said that MTC were 'stretched' for staff and that Debbie had met with 2 contractors. Bucks CC have said that they could do some of the work. DM liaise with MTC in May re this. **Action DB to contact MTC**

Wild life Habitats at FP It was reported b DM that some people were not aware of the clearing of the wildlife area. It was suggested that a WP be held every 6 weeks and that HS will organise MTC re taking the rubbish away. We need to put in natural hedging and remove nettles & a check is needed as to how much is left of the funding thought to be about £150. –The distance from the gate in Dedmere Rise to the pathway is 21 metres, cost of 20 non green stakes is about £33, green stakes are 25 for £30, weaving is about £5 per metre. DM said that the charity 'I dig trees' can donate free hedge row trees; but it was pointed out that they would have to be maintained. SM pointed out that MTC had not yet officially agreed to the clearance ground being dedicated to another wildlife area. As there are several wildlife areas at the Dedmere Rise/Flats area of the allotments site, it was suggested that another one at the school area would be good. RH is to check whether hedging can be put in the from the notice board to the school gate and that it needed to be costed. DM mentioned there may be an issue from nearby trees creating excessive shade. SM reported that the Eco Group organising rehabilitation of the slow worms had got back to her, MT has a sheet of galvanised iron for them which needs to be cut up before placing in the bunker area, herbs and flowers plan to be planted in the bunker area to encourage bees and other insects. **Action SM**

Allotments Competition - SM reported the Judges are booked for 2 visits. SM will assist them at FP & JS will assist at HH.

Seedling and plant Stand - This will be held on the 4th May 11.00-1230, set up at 10.30. MT, DB & JS there have been problems getting seeds started this year and that it might be better to hold a second seedling & plant stand later on. **Action MT, DB & JS to check diaries.** It was agreed that MT, DB & JS start to setup from 10.00. The event has been advertised in the newsletter & an email reminder will be sent the weekend prior to the event.

Clearance work - It was reported that since February a further WP had worked on the FP shed and had uncovered more roofing material – possible asbestos; HS will arrange for it be handled by MTC. There is still glass and barbed wire left from the first WP to dispose of. Another WP is required to demolish the shed. SM will send out an email to plot holders re any spare wood that can be reused from the demolition and will organise the removal of the rest with MTC. Notices are required to tell people to stop dumping. **Action HS & SM**

AWP Meeting – matters to put forward - The following topics will be put forward:- HH Fence repair, Post numbering and corner posts, Tenancy rules regarding warning letters, Playground area, SM asked committee members forward to her any others that they wanted discussed & will liaise with MTC for next meeting.

AOB - HS asked that a formal thanks to Robin Teasdale be recorded for his work on tree pruning at both sites.

DB said that the notice boards at FP need to have new Perspex and pin boards as the Perspex. MT suggested that pictures be used on the noticeboards as they get more attention than scripts. **Action DB re the cost of cork tiles & IB re Perspex** SM said that Ian Brown had done a couple of trips for the second hand tools and was keen on taking over the role handling the tools and the finance from them. Those present had no objections. SM will liaise with IB over this. It was suggested that an inventory of the tools was done and a decision on what was worth keeping. **Action SM & IB**

Next Meeting date This is planned for June – date TBA. Another will be held before the AGM which is booked for 07.11.24.