

The Marlow Allotments Association



Minutes of the Allotments Meeting – 03.06.2024 at 11.30pm, Marlow Donkey

Attendance:

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

Apologies: Pete Cooper, Ian Brown, Denise Bagge (DB),

Appointment of minutes secretary:- John Stilliard was appointed.

Matters Arising from the last meeting & AGM

We are still awaiting details from HS of items to be sold from the clearance work of the shed at FP, there is some interest in the shed there, any reasonable offer will be accepted. SM reported that she had not had time to do anything about the bunker area at FP. IB is still to do the inventory of tools at HH. HS reported that he had heard of a developer being interested in the playground area at FP – agreed to discuss this at the AWP.

The AGM will be on the 7th November. There will be a MAA mtg in September (TBA) to prep for this. A new chair is required; they must have a proposer & seconder. **Action JS and RH to consider this.**

Treasurer's report & Membership Report - The Treasurer's report was tabled and discussed, current memberships received are 133. The report was accepted – the finances looked good.

Waiting lists, vacant & neglected plots – HS said that there were some plots at the East of FP & DM some the other end that were overgrown and had horsetail. It was agreed that a procedure for dealing with neglected plots was required and should be discussed at the AWP. Debbie will be inspecting the plots in June and issuing letters where needed. SM reported that 36 plots had been let since Nov 2023. 20 at FP and 16 at HH. At present there are only 2 on waiting list for HH and 4 at FP plus 2 for either. Action SM to add to AWP Agenda

Overhanging Trees & Shrubs - There is a problem area at FP in the Dedmere Rise area where there is shading. On 18 May the Marlow Town Council Office reported that the tree works at the allotments should be completed by Bucks County Council within the next 8 weeks. The Town Council do not have exact dates and they may only be told at short notice – MTC will let DB know as and when this is clearer.

Wild life Habitats at FP - DM said that Hazel fencing had been trialled in the Demere Rise end of FP. £73 has been spent so far. **Action DM to send SM an email detailing how much has been spent, what area that will cover and how much more money is needed** The Hazel fencing cannot be completed until the tree work has been finished.

Slow Worms. Iron sheets are available for the bunker area as cover for the slow worms. The area by the Surgery fence is overgrown. To be discussed at the AWP, either a long thin allotment or extending the existing allotments is possible.

Renewals date There has been discussion about moving this to November to enable new tenants the winter period to get started. SM & FT pointed out that this makes no difference to new and inexperienced tenants. MTC want it aligned with their Financial Year.

Seedling and plant Stand. This has been very worthwhile. MT requested permission to buy another table; this was voted on and approved. A strimmer has been donated to the allotments. **Action:- JS to pass details to SM**

A 'tool table' sale was discussed and it was agreed to hold one at HH in the autumn when people would know what they needed and didn't want.

Clearance work - RH reported that there is still asbestos in the old shed structure with no roof at FP. Action SM to email to MTC to arrange for disposal.

AWP Meeting – matters to put forward

Debbie has sent out an email with the agenda for the WP. To this needs to be added a procedure for neglected plots, also the area by the Surgery fence at FP. MT produced a drawing of a potential badger netting system – 3ft high and 1 ft deep curving back.

AOB

SM will discuss the possibility of a Dahlia talk by Richard and a talk on bees by the bumble bee organisation. **Action SM to contact them.** A BBQ will be held at HH on the 6th July, RH will help this.

MT suggested she gave a Solitary Bee talk at her plot 27 at HH – this would be done June-August.

Close of meeting 12.37pm

Next Meeting date - The next meeting will be held in September – date TBA.