

Minutes of L.A.A. Meeting - Wednesday 15th July 2020

Held on Site due to Covid19 restrictions.

Welcome to all attending

Members Present: Kay West-Chair, Glenys Milliard-Treasurer, Samantha Shakespeare-Minutes Secretary, Julie Debbage representing Council as Town Clerk

Apologies from: Graham Milliard, Elaine Smith, Mark Culbet, Cathy Fewlass, Diane?

Present: Phil and Diane Emes, Hilary Tuite, Dave Cope, Jane Lacey, Tracey Savage, Karen Harris, Ray Wall, Vivienne Pearson,

Matters Arising from Last Minutes

- Middle Car Park 'Recycling Site' Julie pointed out that on Google Earth it showed that this area had been three plots. Once it is cleared the area could return to being three plots. Mention was made of care around Electricity cable buried there and the possible acquisition of 2nd compost toilet facility with better access than the existing one.
- Vacant Plots known to be truly available to new plot holders on the waiting list will be shown by Mark next week ending 25th July. Office staff have been ringing round current owners of plots seemingly unattended for clarity of intentions to return or if help is needed.
- Membership fees for Association and invoicing for plot rent could not be actioned due to Covid restriction. However, new Software to be used by the Council Staff will enable and improve issues of Allotment administration. The Town Council Office is open from 10-2pm Monday to Friday and from August it could well be possible for fees to be manually paid in this way. Julie checking if online payments will be possible.
- Flooding Issue is being pursued by Mark who has been continually let down by original contractor, currently seeking new possibilities that may lead to mini digger creating trench to alleviate ongoing issue with water retention on site. Hope to locate necessary contractor by the week ending 19th July.
- Lease for Site is being negotiated as original site lease expires 2026 with 2nd part of site 2029.
- Harvest Supper at The Grange booking to be checked by Julie. No awards this year due to unfairness of those having to shield themselves from Covid19 Virus.
- Signage on site to be updated and checked by Mark.
- Bonfires are only permitted after 3pm to comply with Tenancy Agreement but because of the pandemic it is deemed unwise to light them at this time.

A.O.B

- Glenys Milliard presented as treasurer The LAA Accounts to date 2019-2020 giving a Total Reserves figure of £1,360.63.
- Mark Culbert was on Site and met with Kay and Samantha 17th July 2020, Discussed Council Recycling area, its future use and the removal of unnecessary items dumped there, also the vacant plots, their availability and the weed control needed on them as affecting neighbouring plots.

- Julie reported that Soil conditioner/Compost, although available by the ton at a cheap price, is expensive due to the delivery costs from Worcester.
- **Communication** will hopefully be further enhanced by the displaying of the minutes of last meeting enabling all to read and be kept up to date with matters pertaining to the Site. **A new Notice Board** on the side of Community Shed was discussed, to show email addresses for plot holders to use for their queries or concerns. Grant for this might be available from Midland NAS.
- L.A.A. AGM. postponed in May 2020 because of Covid virus lockdown. This will take place as soon as possible, with at least one month's notice given, as required, with at least one month in advance. This could be a Zoom meeting or held on site and socially distanced. Waiting for response from Committee members to confirm a suitable date and format.
- Sam to email Cynthia Partridge with regard to involvement with The Plant Fair to be held socially distanced on The Grange 19th September 2020 9am-3pm
- Compost toilet requires attention and possible replacement of straw bales in the future, as noted by Sue Morris.
- Community Garden has had much work done recently by Kay and Ray , a request for donations of suitable plants and the need for permeable path membrane to be put down keeping tree roots watered, planks for edging and a further path on the yet to be weeded fruit bed which will help to suppress the many weeds currently creeping onto neighbouring mini plots.
- Attention drawn to the Rat Traps on site containing yellow blocks that ascertain what creature is nibbling them, correct traps for type are then used. Reminder to plot holders to report directly to the council by email or telephone.
- Gates to be closed after each person arrives/leaves the site as thefts have been noted causing upset. Appropriate signage to be hung in plain sight on the gate. This is returning to usual practice whenever using the gate entrance.
- National Gardening Association Magazine currently posting to Glenys address may be able to be passed on after 72 hours between readers.
- Seed Catalogue available through Jane - details to follow

Many Thanks to All working hard to keep their plots looking so good and attending this unusual meeting on site!

CLOSE OF MEETING WITH THANKS TO ALL FOR THEIR INTEREST AND ATTENDANCE.