

Minutes of Poverest Allotment Committee Meeting

Held on Saturday 21st October 2023 at 2pm
in The Community Shed.

Present: Bill Whatley (BW) Chairman, John O'Connell (JO'C)
Treasurer, Lesley Arnett (LA) Deputy Membership Secretary,
Rob Winkley (Deputy Site Manager), Bob Vine (BV),
Denis McCarthy (DM)

Apologies were received from Sam Whatley (SW),
Graham Garnett (GG) and Joan Vine (JV)

1. Minutes of last Meeting held on 21st July 2023

Agreed as correct record.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Nothing raised for discussion.

3. Performance Vs Budget

JO'C advised current account balance £3,550.93 and
deposit account balance £6,974.17(as at 22/10/23)

Rents received to date £5,750.65

(to be confirmed with LA)

Bromley Rent £505.89

Water £1,015.14 – last meter reading to be done 29/10/23

Insurance £618.66

Admin £343.79

Shop sales £811.01

Shop Stock £367.20

HRMC Confirmed no tax liability.

4. Site Managers Report

BW advised last years working party road works have
proved successful as no flooding reported in the lower end
plots this year so far. An additional road improvements
programme will continue to capitalise on this. Extra road
material (80 tonnes) plus a digger and JCB to be ordered

so work can be done not only to the road but also use the digger to clear a couple of plots.

ACTION BW: To advise when programme to start in advance so possible working party can be arranged or all hands committee members to help.

BW advised back gate post cannot be dug out and realigned as too much work. Post was concreted in so much it would be almost impossible to do. Better to either bend the cross-bolt piece or re-weld a new section that holds the cross bolt in place.

ACTION BW: Advise Committee Members of date so they can help – possible date 4/5 November.

5. Membership Secretary Report.

LA to be added to Bank Account to make it easier for invoicing and checking rents in etc.

ACTION JO'C: Add LA to bank account

LA advised 5 vacant plots – 7a, 19A, 22A, 45B and 72A
2 of those need the digger to clear.

No waiting list.

ACTION LA: Place 'advert' on Orpington Gossip Facebook page.

ACTION BV: Place ad up at Tescos and on Poverest Park noticeboards.

Defib still being investigated.

ACTION BV: Renew 'poster board' on side of Community Shed and add external First Aid box.

6. Biodiversity Update

Biodiversity matters are being communicated to plot holders via the newsletter, notice board and allotment Facebook group.

The Reptile Survey finishes at end of this month. JV to provide a summary of sightings in our next newsletter and let everyone know what next year's focus is on as soon as she knows.

No news on the SINC as yet.

Sharing shed - the foundations are down. Once the shed is erected, JV will be happy to paint it.

The plan so far for the area behind the Community Shed which has been agreed for development into various 'wildlife habitats' is to - block the gap in the hedge with branches/twigs cut during the hedge pruning weekend and plant a climbing shrub as cover, create a large insect habitat from unwanted pallets (6 would be ideal??) The unwanted concrete can be used to create a rock pile (sort of a dry-stone wall!) and Idverde are going to provide logs for a log pile. The idea is to keep it simple so folks can see they can do something on a smaller scale on their plots or gardens that will help increase biodiversity without the need to 'rewild'.

7. AOB

2 fake CCTV cameras have been bought and are ready for poles.

ACTION BW: Sort out one pole for back gate entrance.

Sharing Shed will be looked at in the next couple of weeks.

ACTION BW & GG: Advise rest of committee when this will happen so they can help.

Biodiversity area needs 6 pallets to build an insect habitat.

ACTION BW OR JC: Order pallets to be delivered.

Community Shed improvements discussed including new roof.

ACTION JC: Get quotes for renovations and investigate possible grants/awards.

A yearly plan for working parties, jobs and possible events/talks to be created for 2024 season and beyond. Discussion around the fact it appears to be the same people each time and how best to incentivise others to join in. Once a yearly plan is in place that helps people plan for them. Also we could introduce a charge if they don't join in – perhaps £5 per working party (a bit like other allotment sites in Bromley). Will add to AGM next year for general discussion.

ACTION BV & LA: Start to build a plan for the year.

MEETING: Thursday 11th January 2024 at 7pm, Conservative Club to finalise plan

Committee Christmas Meal arranged for 7 December at Cyprianis Petts Wood at 7pm

ACTION BV: Book and pay deposit (£140)

Welcome pack to be updated with 3 month must start work clause.

ACTION BV: Update and save to OneDrive for LA

End of season Newsletter to cover 'getting your plots ready' for the next season. First Weed Walk February 2024.

ACTION RW: Provide wording.

Water tanks: DM advised that some covers are rotten and need replacing before painting and signs added.

ACTION BV: Water tank survey to be done and feedback on which ones need attention.

Date of next meeting

Next Committee meeting Thursday, 11th January 2024 at 7pm
Conservative Club, Orpington.