

Minutes of Poverest Allotment Committee Meeting

Held on Saturday 21st July 2023 at 10:30 in The Shed.

Present: Bill Whatley (BW) Chairman, Sam Whatley (SW) Membership Secretary, John O'Connell (JO'C) Treasurer, Lesley Arnett (LA) Deputy Membership Secretary, Bob Vine (BV), Denis McCarthy (DM) Graham Garnett (GG) Joan Vine (JV)

Apologies were received from Rob Winkley (RW)

BW introduced and welcomed LA and JV.

1. Minutes of last Meeting held on 1st of April 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 £5,129.55 and deposit account balance £6,356.75 (as at 29 July).

Annuals accounts have been signed off but still to be filed at Companies House. ACTION:JO'C to file (done 27/7)

Water usage up to 25th June 23,540 gallons

Insurance: £615 good to go ahead for this year.

General costs £367

Shop sales £751

Net £494 – This may be put towards a new mower.

4. Site Managers Report

BW advised there are vacant plots that will need strimming.

A digger will be required to dig 22A and to top up the road.

Wood chip is in both bays but the manure bay needs clearing to allow for a manure delivery.

ACTION: BV to get signs for each bay so they are clearly marked. (Ordered 29/7/23)

5. Membership Secretary Report.

SW introduced LA as the new Deputy Membership Secretary looking after weed letters and new plot holder introductions.

A new laptop has been purchased for membership work.

All documents are now on a secure One Drive in one place.

SW to continue invoicing this year.

8 vacant plots with one being viewed today.

BV to continue with July's Newsletter.

ACTION: BV include vacant plots in Newsletter.

Discussion took place about having a defib box and first aid kit externally on the shed wall.

ACTION: SW to look into costs of defib.

ACTION: BV to look into cost of wall boxes.

Discussion about first aid training. SW and BW previously first aid trained. DM and GG have a first aid kit on their plots. JV informed members of the St John's Ambulance First Aid App.

ACTION: BV to include this in the newsletter to inform all plot holders. LA to look into First Aid Courses for her and BV

6. Biodiversity Champion Update

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

It was agreed the collective aim is to contribute to local biodiversity without changing the essential nature of plots as a place to grow vegetables, fruit, and flowers.

No news about the sites of importance for nature conservation (SINC) survey yet.

It was agreed that some of the space behind the community shed can be a designated space for wildlife habitat development.

ACTION: JV to look into sourcing suitable materials and organise the project.

It was agreed, a due to be delivered, shed can be sited behind the community shed and can be used to house tools/equipment plot holders wish to re-cycle by passing onto other plot holders. This should not include plastic pots.

It was agreed that perimeter hedge cutting will not be done during the main bird nesting season (May to mid August)

ACTION working party to be arranged for perimeter hedge pruning 2nd or 3rd week of September. BV to put in Newsletter/Noticeboard/Website

It was agreed that vacant plots will only be strimmed down to a level of 15cm as this should prevent any wildlife being harmed.

A discussion was held about the use of pesticides, and it was agreed it is not necessary to use pesticides on the allotment roads in future.

7. AOB

Vacant plot clearing raised by a plot holder via Facebook.

Discussion around working parties for vacant plot clearing and perimeter hedge maintenance. It was agreed vacant plots will not be passed to new owners until cleared. Possible working party to help.

Lower gate issue raised by a plot holder on Facebook and via JO'C.

ACTION: BW to re-align gate.

DM notified that the water tanks need repainting and signs repainted.

ACTION: BV to obtain more inside signage for the tanks. E.G please close me. (Ordered 29/7/23)

ACTION: DM to repaint tank lids

Date of next meeting

AGM on 26th of August 2023 at 10.00AM. BBQ afterwards.

Next Committee meeting 21st October 2023.