



TAMWORTH FARM ALLOTMENT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

7.15pm, 1 June 2026

Attendees: Steffi Backhouse (SB), Anthony Redpath (AR), Katy Willison (KW), Rob Rudolf (RR), Julie Mallett (JM), Craig Sisterson (CS), Elisabetta Costantini (EC), Jo Rodgers (JR)

Apologies, Minutes, and Actions

1. Apologies were received from Bev Stansfield and Kathleen Stephens.
2. Minutes from May meeting were agreed. SB to put site maps up on noticeboards. **Action: Committee members to supply headshots for noticeboards in lieu of group photo.** 2026 plant sale held, very successfully. Water on, first monthly reading done; website updated.
3. Other actions updated since May meeting:
 - a. **Horseshoe Common:** AR shared TFAS offered approx. 45 slabs, 30 already collected, believe likely enough to complete new patio project. Committee discussed timing for works still needed. **Action: complete new patio by harvest/AGM**
 - b. **Security Consultation:** AR/JM finalising questionnaire covering CCTV, possible Allotment Watch, and other security issues or ideas. Committee agrees it will be sent to plot holders via email and letters. **Action: send questionnaire to plot holders, with a target date to collate results by 6 July 2026.**

Site safety and maintenance report

4. RR updated Committee on site safety and maintenance. One plot holder had key exchanged to fit new locks. Green waste bay emptied, some plastic found. Almost all non-TFAS items removed from Horseshoe Shed/Common. Door to RA tool shed broken 28 May, taken off hinges 29 May. **Action: RR/AR to meet Thursday to address options.**
5. Water being read monthly. KW notes bill of £930, likely £1,000+ bill each month moving forward, and high water costs this year. Issue with taps left on and RA gate repeatedly left open, under investigation. Plot holder's planters went missing from RA, found on Farm and returned. Also complaints re digging up of paths. AR & KW discussed with those involved. **Action: committee to remind plot holders not to borrow equipment without asking, etc.**
6. Committee discussed old carpet paths on Farm and elsewhere, and what to do with them; dangerous in winter. Opportunity to address in proper managed way across entire site.

Treasurer report

7. KW presents latest report. Likely to have £5k available, outside of lottery grant funds etc. Committee able to spend if needed, eg Horseshoe Common and shed. SB suggests starting 'wish list' of items to improve entire site and make life easier, eg ladders, tools, etc. **Action: Committee to consider options.**
8. May need to replace RA shed after door broken. TFAS given shed by Sustainable Merton. RR notes unlikely to be repairable due to construction, and due to age will be out of warranty. **AR/RR to investigate options to replace RA tool shed eg lockable cupboard.**
9. Plant sale hugely successful, made £2,040. Good amount of external people. Committee discusses to possibly buy gas ring for 2027 Plant Sale. Consider posting adverts on the gates for local residents to be aware in run up to event.

AOB

10. **New Committee member:** following discussions with plot holder Martin Best, Committee agreed he should be co-opted onto Committee, beginning with next month's meeting.
11. **Farm Plot Issue/fruit trees:** Committee discussed removal and (over)pruning of established fruit trees by new plot holders, and concerns over paths. **Action: Further communications to be followed up including Code of Conduct to ensure plot holders understand responsibilities**
12. **Next Community Day:** Midsummer Solstice Community Day postponed until 11 July.
13. **Farm gate:** Committee discussed issue of Farm gate repeatedly being left open, and tap running. Need to manage risks as best we can. JR raised possibility of keyless Marine Grade Code locks, being used by Wandsworth. Approx £130-£200 cost. Discussed possibly testing on one gate. Big change, would need to be addressed more fully over time. **Action: As Farm site plot holders, SB, KW, AR & EB to continue to monitor issue.**
14. **Enriching the soil:** AR raised possibility of wrapping together composting, manure usage, compost bays on RA and Farm, and other actions or projects (eg sell blood and bone) for a TFAS theme of 'enriching the soil', and overall wellbeing of site. Good soil = good quality food. Committee discussed: could incorporate tree policy, plants to encourage pollinators and birds, dead hedging for insects, future flower meadows on Farm Site under lottery grant. Also discussed possible involvement of Duke of Edinburgh volunteers onsite or Work Days.

ACTIONS IN JUNE

Item	Action	Name	Target date/ Completed
April 2025	Horseshoe Common project: plan and source other materials as required. Complete new patio.	AR/RR/CS	October 2026
2 March 2026	Committee to hold broad security consultation with plot holders. Send questionnaires to plot holders by letter and/or email in June.	AR/ JM	6 July 2026
7 April	Put copies of site maps in the noticeboard	SB	
1 June	Committee members to provide headshots	SB	6 July 2026
1 June	RA tool shed: investigate options to repair/replace	AR/RR	6 July 2026
1 June	New plot holders to be sent email about Conduct policy, paths, trees, and borrowing equipment	KW	6 July 2026
1 June	Committee members to consider any 'wish list' tools or equipment		
1 June	Farm gate and taps – to be monitored by Committee members on the Farm	SB/KW/AR/EB	

Committee meetings - Dates for the Diary 2026 (all on Monday unless otherwise stated)

- 6 July
- 3 August (may not be needed)
- 7 September
- 5 October
- AGM Sunday 1 November 2026
- 2 November
- 7 December