



TAMWORTH FARM ALLOTMENT SOCIETY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
7.00pm, 2 September 2024

Attendees: Steffi Backhouse (SB), Rob Rudolf (RR), Julie Mallett (JM), Jo Rodgers (JR), Katy Willison (KW) and Anthony Redpath (AR).

Apologies

1. Apologies were accepted from Bev Stansfield.

Minutes and Actions

2. Minutes from the July meeting were agreed. No meeting in August. SB updated that the RA noticeboard work almost complete. Thyme planting is now complete. AR will circulate inventory by end of September. Agreed that there was no need for an audit of tools, TFAS Committee members would purchase low cost second hand tools, specifically forks and spades, when they see them at car boots etc, and keep receipts for auditing purposes. KW/ AR would purchase new brooms as they have gone missing. **Action: All Committee members**

Site Maintenance and Security

3. RR updated the Committee on site maintenance. We have had a rough sleeper staying in a shed on the Horseshoe, he was reported to the police and has now moved on. We are seeing increasing problems from fly tipping now that the recycling bins have been removed from the car park. Agreed that when we see fly tipping in public spaces, we should photograph it and report it on Merton's Fix My Street reporting system: <https://fixmystreet.merton.gov.uk>
4. Water leak on the Horseshoe needs soldering. RR is aware, waiting for plot holders with the right skills to return and then it will be tackled.
5. Merton Council have asked us to stop using the grass verge of the car park for dumped woodchip and to use the woodchip already there as soon as possible. The woodchip has got out of control, with too many firms dumping material. We have encouraged local community groups to help themselves to help run it down. A large heap remains; we should encourage plot holders to use as much as possible. SB will respond to Merton to let them know we've asked firms not to drop off anymore but to warn them that now that the overhead barrier to the carpark is permanently unlocked, we can't guarantee that firms will not continue to do this. We should explore options for continuing to use a small amount of the space for a smaller amount in future as this is a sustainable practice that reduces the amount going into landfill. **Action: SB**
6. Fox hole on one of the plots we have recently let. JR will provide some information about how we can safely manage fox holes. **Action: JR**

2024/25 Budget preparation

7. KW updated the Committee on budget preparation. The budget would be set at the next meeting, but it would be helpful to have input from Committee members in order to prepare it. The figures for the budget this year to date were in the monthly report circulated earlier in

that day. This year, we have underspent on water and on maintenance with both areas coming in under budget. This means that there may be some capital funding available to spend next year, although this remains dependent on the outcome of our national lottery funding bid for work on the security fence. We expect to hear the outcome of the bid by the end of September. It would be useful for the Committee to consider what projects might benefit from this year's under spend or whether they want to set aside more funding for major projects/ increases in reserves if the lottery funding does come through.

8. She also invited the Committee's input into whether and what pay increase we should offer Garry and Eileen, our maintenance man and bookkeeper. All agreed that we should offer ay increases at inflation at September 2024, and ongoing future years.
9. The Committee identified the highest priority to be the repairs needed to the Horseshoe shed.
10. RR/ AR proposed that on site electricity would be worth exploring, including solar panels. It would encourage the use of more sustainable tool use; it might allow greater use of lighting and CCTV to improve security and would expand options for site locks. Agreed that this was worth exploration. **Action: AR/ RR**

AGM preparation

11. Accounts are in good shape, KW will work with Eileen to get them finalised by early October. KW to ask in monthly email asking if anyone is interested in joining the Committee. SB to produce a poster. SB to produce an annual report setting out achievements over the year. SB to ask HE if she is happy to stay on as Chair. **Actions: SB/ KW**

AOB

12. Date of Harvest Festival agreed to be 28 September, starting 2pm. JM to work up her project plan. SB to do a poster. SB to invite local dignitaries, including the Council Executive lead on environment. **Action: KW/ SB/ JM**
13. RR chasing up Kings Seeds catalogues. JM to tell new tenants about Kings Seeds and encourage them to use them. **Action: JM**
14. Rose Avenue looks in need of a bit of attention, especially the community areas. KW/ JM are working with a RA plot holder to encourage a RA focussed group to maintain and improve community areas.
15. JM is considering asking Gorringe School if they would like to do any school visits to the site so that children can see fruit and veg growing. Schools would undertake risk assessments.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

To:	Format of communication:	Topic/Issue:	Action:	By:
All	Email	Harvest festival Bring food contribution, bring a plate of produce, ugliest veg or fruit, water meters for prizes and sale. If you'd like to get involved, get in touch.	KW	End of Sep
All	Email	AGM reminder, ask people if they are interested in joining the Committee,	KW	End of Sep

ACTIONS IN JUNE

Item	Action	Name	Target date/ Completed
14 Nov 2022	Investigate Rose Avenue handover terms and historic use of land	JR	May 2023
3 April 2023	Bring forward a proposal on using and letting the community shed	SB	May 2023
7 Aug	Make contingency plans for website	SB	Oct 23
4 Dec	Plan to repair/ renew RA notice board	SB/ RR	June 2024
13 May	Pursue funding for fence improvements. Refine method and costing of fence improvement. Inform plot holders of proposals	AR/ RR	End of July
13 May	Research options for first aid kit on the Farm	SB/ KW	End of July
3 June	Purchase second hand tools for RA shed AR/ KW to purchase new brooms as none are left in the sheds.	All	Ongoing
3 June	Survey of on-plot composting	JR/BS/EC/RR	End of September
1 July	Put forward options for changing approach to season's passes	AR/ KW	End of March 2025
1 July	Circulate populated inventory of asset with replacement value where available	AR	End of Sept
2 Sep	Explore options for laying of electricity on site	AR/ RR	End of December
2 Sep	Circulate advice on dealing with fox dens	JR	End of Sep
2 Sep	Reply to Merton email about woodchip	SB	End of Sep
2 Sep	AGM prep	SB/ KW	End of Sep
2 Sep	Harvest Festival prep	SB/ KW/ JM	End of Sep
2 Sep	Disseminate information about Kings Seeds to new tenants	JM	Ongoing

Dates for the Diary 2024

7 October 2024

AGM Sunday 10 November 2024

11 November 2024

2 December 2024