



## TAMWORTH FARM ALLOTMENT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 7pm, 2 May 2023

Attendees: Steffi Backhouse (SB), Jo Rodgers (JR), Bev Stansfield (BS), Elisabetta Costantini (EC), Rob Rudolf (RR), Walli Taylor (WT)

### Apologies

1. Apologies were accepted from Tony Redpath, Katy Willison and Julie Mallett

### Minutes

2. Minutes from April meeting were agreed. SB went through actions.

**Action:** .

### Site Maintenance and Practical Task List

3. General entry works around site by ploholders for improvements.  
Rob sadly had to report a theft of stored wood from behind a shed on the common area which had been reserved for general works. Any resources for projects need to be labelled to prevent further thefts as other stored items have also been reduced slowly by continual removal. Keeping that part of the site tidy also may help to reduce this problem as people believe things are dumped and take them for themselves. Note in newsletter about this problem. **Action: JR**

### Plot Management and Lettings

4. Plot management - In response to an email out notifying ploholders of inspections coming up we had two ploholders telling us they have problems but will be cultivating from May onwards. We have been fairly relaxed in our initial approach but where there have been no real signs of activity a polite email has gone out checking in and offering support if needed. Rose Avenue – Ten emails sent out. Only two haven't replied. We have one application for a garden friend and one person who has mitigating personal circumstances and we have already worked with someone to become their garden friend. The Farm – five emails sent out and a further two on untidiness and seed spread. Replies to all first and none to the last. Horseshoe – Two emails sent out for low or no activity. Reply with commitment to cultivate from one and sadly the second we now know the ploholder has died. A letter has been sent offering condolences to the wife who has been active on the plot. Overall good start to the year. Follow up in May.  
The Rose Avenue plot which came up for detailed discussion last year after an NCN – the approach suggested in the update is fair and should be followed.  
Lettings – Farm 11 and RA 55 both let. Three remaining to be let – Farm 37a, and 37b, 38b. Approx. 25 on the waiting list to date.

## Update on Water misuse

5. Steffi gave a brief run through of what has been found and what was discussed at a meeting with the ploholders. A detailed note attached for reference. It is recommended that a separate meeting be called to make a final decision on what action to take. Date to be confirmed. SB for check committee availability. **Action: SB**

## Water Leak update

6. Rob gave a brief run through of the process we have followed with the Luckings Utilities (who have done water works on site previously) for several days after the leak was discovered in the autumn. We now have a far greater knowledge of our water infrastructure. We are still not sure if we are able to isolate the plots with valves we have found. Water metering has been monitored and there is still a small leak/s. It now seems there is work to be undertaken outside our jurisdiction and on council land. Thanks to Rob for his continual commitment to this issue as a volunteer. Our management agreement notes that our responsibility is within the boundary of our fences. (Jo confirmed this after the meeting.) We will contact the council to advise what we have done so far, the costs we have incurred to date, asking them to investigate the pipework under the public right of way. Currently there would still be an approx. estimated cost pa of £350 for water in addition to the general use, which we cannot sustain. We will ask for the report and invoice from Luckings. The water is no switched on.  
**Action: SB/RR**

## Policy when ploholders leave plots with excessive rubbish.

7. Recently we have had plots where large amounts of metal, timber, and hoarded items have needed removal prior to a new letting. It was suggested by Katy and Steffi that a plot which is in this state we will let as seen and the ploholder will have the responsibility to clear it. We could order a skip for general plot waste as we currently do and the ploholder is able to use this to remove the waste if they don't wish to use any of it themselves. This will especially help those without cars. We could let the site know there is resource available for them to use if they can use it. We can monitor the current state of older plots and Julie advise any that are not being let for this reason and make a decision then. We are liberty to give rent free periods, but this doesn't help someone physically remove what they can't use. **Action: JM/AR/KT**

## AOB

### 8.

1. Fox Update. Committee members met with the local Police last week to hear about their investigations into local fox poisonings. The Police were keen to stress that TFAS ploholders are not under suspicion and that this is general meeting to raise awareness. Evidence had been received from a resident of foxes dying. The fast-acting poison has not been identified by RSCPA who are also working with the police. We pointed out locations where food is fly tipped near to RA gate and the path to Rose Avenue and other situations of concern near the RA plots. The police invited us as a committee to send a representative as part of a local group which meets once a month to discuss issues in the neighbourhood. Jo said she is interested in

taking part. Posters which had been ripped down are being replaced by the police as well as a poster about food waste tipping being forbidden.

2. Rob asked for another Community Day. It was booked for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May to continue the hedge planting around the Horseshoe perimeter and general gardening around the Communal plot. 10-4pm. Suggestion to have pizza – Rob to speak to Elisabetta. Steffi to do a poster for promotion. **Action: SB/RR**

3. Email received from Megan Hatton – Head of Community Safety stating that they are looking into implementing the CCTV along. An assessment is being undertaken. For other safety issues that are not anti-social related we need to take up with Merton as noted in the email as follows:

Thank you for getting in touch and apologies for the delay in response. I have provided an update below with regards to Community Safety and CCTV:

- In terms of remit of the EVA report covered by Safer Merton, a CCTV site survey has been recommended. A CCTV survey will be undertaken week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> May to assess the location and need. It should be noted that there is a limited supply of deployable CCTV cameras whose use is assigned according to priority. Safer Merton will provide an update on the findings of the survey to you once it has been completed.
- With regards to the other recommendations in the report, such as improved lighting and landscaping, we have informed the relevant Council teams and have passed on your contact details for them to contact you directly with an update.

Allotments in general are overseen by the Public Spaces team, therefore for further issues going forward which are not related to Anti-Social Behaviour I would recommend contacting the team direct on: [publicspace@merton.gov.uk](mailto:publicspace@merton.gov.uk)

4. Rob went to a Merton allotment meeting held at Martin's Way. General discussions on similar topics to those we have at TFAS. Members are going to share info on names and roles within Idverde and the Council to speed up communications. It became evident that other sites are dealing with different people to us and so it might help if we work together. It was also noted that Martin's Way have adopted our Garden Member ship scheme word for word!

## COMMUNICATIONS ACTION FOR MAY

To:	Format of communication:	Topic/Issue:	Action:	By:
All	Email	Theft of TFAS property on Common	JR	5 May
All	Email/ Whatsapp	Poster for Compost workshop	SB	5 May
Merton	Email	Re water leak	SB	9 May
Committee	Whatsapp	Date for TFAS water misuse meeting	SB	9 May

Item	Action	Name	Target date/ Completed
14 Nov 2022	Complete digitalisation of papers	JR	30 May 2023
14 Nov 2022	Consider best way to invite plot holders to initiate and run new projects	EC	
14 Nov 2022	Investigate Rose Avenue handover terms and historic use of land	JR	30 May 2023
5 Dec 2022	Upload existing Garry paperwork to Dropbox Agree new contract with Garry before the end of Feb. (SB to share strimming maps with JM – complete)	JM	30 May
3 April	Bring forward a proposal on using and letting the community shed	SB	30 May 2023
3 April	Circulate costs of re-decking the Horseshoe shed with new decking material	RR	30 May 2023
2 May	Poster for composting workshop	SB	5 May
2 May	Poster for Community Day	SB	5 May
2 May		RR	

### Dates for the Diary

Agreed Committee meetings for the year ahead:

Monday 5 June

Monday 3 July

Monday 7 August (if needed)

Monday 4 September

Monday 2 October

AGM Sunday 12 November

Monday 13 November

Monday 4 December