



## TAMWORTH FARM ALLOTMENT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 7.30pm, 3 July 2023

Attendees: Steffi Backhouse (SB), Jo Rodgers (JR), Bev Stansfield (BS), Elisabetta Costantini (EC), Rob Rudolf (RR), Walli Taylor (WT), Anthony Redpath (AR), Katy Willison (KW), Julie Mallett (JM)

### Apologies

1. No apologies.

### Minutes and Actions

2. Minutes from June meeting were agreed. SB and JM to liaise about loading documents on to Dropbox. AR has carried out an audit of plots with excess material. Reassuring outcome, only a small number of plots would need lots of stuff disposed before reletting, two on the Farm, three on the Horseshoe. Water Group convened, identified some short term actions, including capturing water from existing structures. One issue is how to make sure people use the water once it's collected. Likely to need £200 expenditure on guttering. Committee agreed this expenditure from capital reserves. This might encourage others. Toilet survey, good response, 42 replies so far. AR will send round a reminder email.

### Site Maintenance

3. RR updated, locks have been serviced, water meter reading taken, £1067 worth of water used. Reasonably good considering June was very hot and dry. To be included in monthly email. Garry is continuing water repairs. Have sourced posts for community area fencing through a plot holder which will save some money.

### Plot Management and Lettings

4. KW updated the Committee on the results of the recent June plot inspection. She noted that five emails had been sent to new plot holders asking them to keep the weeds on their plots under control. Of the ten Improvement Notices sent, six people had met cultivation standards, one had done nothing at all and so was being sent an NCN, three people had done some work on their plots but not met the 50% standard. KW and AR invited the Committee to consider next steps on these three. Agreed we would seek to contact one RA plot holder, who we have not been able to engage with. **Action: BS** Further INs for the other two. The Committee discussed what action we should take if people don't cultivate/ cultivate less than 50% year on year. It was agreed that we should consider adding into our cultivation guidelines a new rule that we should put in place a fast track eviction process for people who receive Improvement Notices/ Non Cultivation Notices year on year. **KW/ AR to consider and bring forward proposals for next year's cultivation guidelines.**

5. JM updated the Committee on the waiting list which currently has 24 people on it. One plot now vacant on RA which she will action. JM let the Committee know she would not stand as Letting Officer next year.

#### **Social Events and Community Days**

6. Harvest celebration agreed for 10 September, planning for that at next meeting. Community Day on Saturday 23 September. Agreed focus should be on planting spiky plants around the perimeter/ guttering the community sheds. RA needs some work to tidy up, **SB agreed to message people for volunteers on RA Whatsapp.**

#### **AOB**

7. *Water misuse case:* We have sent eviction notices to the two plot holders involved, we wait to hear from Merton whether they receive an appeal.
8. AR and KW had visited the *Head of Melrose College* and developed a positive relationship. Agreed to work together on boundary, **RR to work with their landscape manager on some joint issues.**
9. SB raised gate in the fence in the Farm which leads to a non plot holder's house. Concern that this could be a breach of security. **For discussion next meeting.**
10. AR noted that a plot holder has raised a question about a neighbouring plot with two diseased trees on it. He asked about our expectations of plot holders in such circumstances. Committee noted that this hasn't happened before, other than occasional removal of diseased trees at plot holder's request. **For the agenda next meeting. AR will try and find out what the diseases are.**
11. JM mentioned grape vine growing through the fence into the public path. **EC to have a word with the plot holder.**

## COMMUNICATIONS ACTION FOR JUNE

To:	Format of communication:	Topic/Issue:	Action:	By:
All	Email	Water costs	KW	10 July
RA	Whatsapp	Rose Avenue clean up	SB	10 July

Item	Action	Name	Target date/ Completed
14 Nov 2022	Complete digitalisation of papers	JR	30 May 2023
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
5 June	Book Capital Growth speaker for September compost master class	EC	3 July 2023
5 June	AR/ KW to consider next year's cultivation guidelines including action on cumulative non cultivators	AR/ KW	March 2024
5 June	Engage RA non cultivating plot holder to check plans	BS	7 Aug 2023
5 June	RR to work with Melrose College on boundary issues	RR	Sep 2023
5 June	Speak to plot holder with grapevine growing outside external fence	EC	7 Aug 2023

### Dates for the Diary

Monday 7 August  
Monday 4 September  
Harvest Festival 10 September  
Community Day 23 September  
Monday 2 October  
AGM Sunday 12 November  
Monday 13 November  
Monday 4 December