



## **TAMWORTH FARM ALLOTMENT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 7.00pm, 4 March 2024**

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

### **Apologies**

1. No apologies were received.

### **Minutes and Actions**

2. Minutes from the February meeting were agreed. SB agreed to ask Hazel about any historic documents she holds. JR to arrange meeting with history librarian in Morden library on possible covenant, anecdotally suggested to be made in 1929.
3. Pallets still not been picked up, now propose to break them up and put them in next skip. Burning not appropriate because not advised for blue pallets.
4. AR updated the Committee on the water supplier. He had tested the market with WaterPlus but found it not to produce a saving. At present, we remain with Castle Water, he continues to explore options with Wave and will set out any savings when he has more details.
5. RR to explore options to repair the noticeboard, alongside JR checking whether there are any cheaper purchase options.
6. BS has identified thyme plug plants at a good price, she will check how many we need, with a view to planting them at March community day.

### **Site Maintenance and Security**

7. RR updated the Committee on site maintenance. Disappointed that Id Verde has cut back some of our defensive planting by accident, we have asked for a meeting to discuss this and poor litter collection standards. Very successful workday, completed planting in largest gap in fencing.
8. One plot in the Farm is showing evidence of the use of poison. We currently have different rules on different sites, with a ban on Rose Avenue, but no ban on the other two sites. We could consult members on whether to go fully organic, but this could have strong opposing views from plot holders and, if organic standards were to be adopted, it would be hard to police. Appropriate use of weedkiller can be an effective tool, if used in moderation and according to guidelines. Education might be a more effective way to change habits. We could also ask new plot holders to commit to cultivate organically. A consultation could be useful to gather information about usage. Further thought to be given to these issues by members.
9. Rose Avenue update: Insufficient forks in the toolshed. BS to do an inventory of what's there.

10. AR updated the Committee on the planning application. Merton has now accepted the application; we have paid the fee and informed Merton that we will net that off our rent payment this year. Next steps will be an officer site visit, public consultation and hopefully approval. Committee considered whether we could net off the cost of the fence improvements from our rent by treating it as a capital improvement and breaking down the cost over five or six years. Agreed that this could be a sensible approach, but to be decided at the point when fence costs are incurred.

**Budget report**

11. KW updated the Committee on the budget position. We have no debtors at present; two plot holders are on payment plans and are up to date. Spending is on track. We continue to hold a small capital reserve which will allow us to fund projects such as the fencing improvements. The Committee noted the position and had no further questions.

**Plant sale options**

12. SB introduced Cat Elliot’s paper, with three options for a plant sale. AR noted that Cat had recommended option 1, a largely internal event, but with some external guests. Since Cat would be one of the core organisers, it made sense to go with her recommendation, but encourage members to invite and bring along friends and family which would help raise revenue and be a better test for opportunity for growth. Friends and family only would also mitigate security risk, so we could hold it on the community area. The Committee agreed this was the best approach. We can ask people to grow stuff specifically for it. All agreed Sunday 19 May as potential date. KW to let Cat know the Committee’s proposal and to agree messaging to members for the monthly email and what she needs from us to help planning.

**AOB**

13. SB is arranging material to update the website, she asked Committee members to provide her with various key bits of information, including site maps, asap.
14. RR agreed that members lay woodchip in front of the green waste bay to reduce the mud.
15. Committee agreed that we employ an expert pruner to prune the fruit trees on Rose Avenue and open it up to plot holders to observe and learn from him. Cost is £20 an hour so very affordable.

**COMMUNICATIONS ACTION FOR MARCH**

To:	Format of communication:	Topic/Issue:	Action:	By:
All	Email	Plant sale	KW	

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	Take a Committee group photo	ALL	Spring
20 Nov	Pursue cheaper water options with Castle Water.	AR	29 Feb
4 Dec	Consider options to repair/ renew RA notice board	SB/ RR	Dec 2023
4 Dec	Plan new planting for RA communal bed	BS/ JR	29 Feb
5 Feb	Agree 2024 contract with GM	JM/ RR	31 March
5 Feb	Circulate plot inspection rules to all plot holders	KW/ AR	30 April
4 Mar	Carry out toolshed inventory	BS	31 March
4 Mar	Contact Cat with plant sale proposals and plan next steps	KW	31 March
4 Mar	Arrange for website update	SB	31 March

### Dates for the Diary 2024

8 April 2024

13 May 2024

3 June 2024

1 July 2024

5 August 2024

2 September 2024

7 October 2024

AGM Sunday 10 November 2024

11 November 2024

2 December 2024