



## TAMWORTH FARM ALLOTMENT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 7.00pm, 4 September 2023

Attendees: Steffi Backhouse (SB), Jo Rodgers (JR), Anthony Redpath (AR), Katy Willison (KW), Julie Mallett (JM), Rob Rudfelt (RR), Walli Taylor (WT), Elisabetta Constantini (EC)

### Apologies

1. Apologies were accepted from Bev Stansfield..

### Minutes and Actions

2. Minutes from August meeting were agreed.

### Site Maintenance and Security

3. Committee members noted the site maintenance report. Water use down significantly this month due to wet weather. All locks maintained and working. Garry back from leave and will be back to work.
4. RR reported back on the CCTV meeting he had had with Adrian Rutkowski, the Head of CCTV at Merton Council. Permanent CCTV would require electricity and a mast. Only possible place would be on college grounds. Would require cherry picker to install it and some tree pruning of mature trees. Coverage would be Horseshoe gate only. Adrian said he would consult the college, but nothing has been heard from him since the meeting. It was agreed that we should pursue Merton again to improve security on site. It was agreed that our priority is better lighting and a higher perimeter fence. However, if money is not available for this, but is for CCTV, that would also be of interest. **Action: JR to report back on lighting options. SB to pursue Designing Out Crime Merton initiative, with preference for fencing and lighting, but not ruling out CCTV, and include local Councillors in the correspondence. RR and AR to consider options for increasing fence height and possible costs**

### Budget report and proposed budget for 2023/24

5. KW presented a paper on the 2023/24 budget which had been agreed with SB and RR. She noted that it was largely based on last year's budget, with some small tweaks reflecting our experience this year. The main changes were that we would no longer offer a ring fenced members project since this was not used this year and that we would offer Garry, our maintenance man, and Eileen, our accountant, a 7% pay rise in line with inflation. We would continue to set aside a high amount for water as the weather may not be as wet next year. Capital reserves are very strong and offer flexibility for high value maintenance projects. The Committee agreed the proposals and were pleased that flexibility over spending was available due to our healthy reserves. **Action: KW to share next year's budget with Eileen and let Eileen and Garry know about pay increase.**

### Plot Management

6. KW updated the Committee on the results of the recent August plot inspection. Generally things were looking good, plot holders had responded well to the notices sent out with visible improvements on the majority of plots. Two plots remained an issue, one has been issued with an Improvement Notice and the other with a Non Cultivation Notice.
7. Paths were in some places an issue, with not everyone keeping them well under control and sometimes planting inappropriately on them. It was agreed that a message would be included in the monthly email reminding people to manage the paths round their plots and secure access. **Action: A message on paths to be included in monthly email.**

### Planning for Harvest Festival

8. Posters have been sent out. Agreed we would ask people on the Horseshoe if they would like to be involved and prepare chicken. SB, RR, JR and EC available to help set up. SB and RR to liaise on buying food. Agreed RR to purchase heating plates to keep food warm and safe.

### Diseased Trees

9. AR reported that a plot holder has asked if TFAS takes a role in policing diseased trees and/or crops on plots, with the concern that the disease might spread to other plots. JR said she was exploring this with a number of other local authorities as part of her job and would report back. The Committee agreed that we should not take responsibility from plot holders unless the disease is sufficiently serious, for example, reportable. But that we should offer help with information and education about diseases and, when plot holders ask for assistance, practical help for plot holders to manage their trees.

### AOB

10. Agreed to report three apparent homeless men to Streetlink. **Action SB.**
11. Communal fruit trees on Rose Avenue need pruning. RR to add them to his list for pruning over the autumn/ winter. Agreed there was a demand for education in this area, would be a good area for a professional workshop. **RR to explore setting this up.**
12. JM noted how much food waste occurred as a result of gluts. Agreed to encourage plot holders to share more food internally within sites and also alert RA plot holders to communal fruit trees near the cemetery. Also agreed to encourage a discussion with plot holders about what ideas they have. **AR to talk to Community Fridge about whether we could establish a connection with them to manage gluts.**

### COMMUNICATIONS ACTION FOR SEPTEMBER

To:	Format of communication:	Topic/Issue:	Action:	By:
All	Email	Kings Seeds	KW	15 Sep
All	Email	Harvest Festival reminder	KW	15 Sep
All	Email	Paths reminder	KW	15 Sept

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	Feb 2024
5 June	RR to work with Melbury College on boundary issues	RR	Sep 2023
7 Aug	Make contingency plans for website	SB	Oct 2023
4 Sep	Explore lighting options.  Pursue Designing Out Crime Merton initiative, with preference for fencing and lighting, but not ruling out CCTV, and include local Councillors in the correspondence.	JR/ SB	2 Oct
4 Sep	Consider options for increasing fence height and possible costs	RR/ AR	2 Oct
4 Sep	Share 2023/24 budget with Eileen  Let Eileen and Garry know about pay increase	KW	2 Oct
4 Sep	Report back on how local authorities are managing diseases	JR	2 Oct
4 Sep	Report homeless men on the basketball court to Streetlink	SB	2 Oct
4 Sep	Add RA communal fruit trees to pruning list and explore setting up a professional workshop on pruning	RR	Next 6 months
4 Sep	Talk to Merton Community Fridge about establishing a connection	AR	2 Oct

### Dates for the Diary

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