



TAMWORTH FARM ALLOTMENT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 7.00pm, 7 August 2023

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

Apologies

1. Apologies were accepted from Rob Rudolf, Walli Taylor and Elisabette Constantini. JM stayed until 7.45pm, then left due to illness.

Minutes and Actions

2. Minutes from July meeting were agreed. **Action: JM and SB to load documents onto Dropbox.**

Site Maintenance

3. Committee members noted the site maintenance report. Water use down significantly this month due to wet weather. All locks maintained and working. RR away until mid August.

Plot Management and Lettings

4. KW updated the Committee on the results of the recent July plot inspection. Generally things were looking good, with relatively few notices being sent out. One member was at eviction stage for non cultivation and non payment of rent. One plot swap has not been agreed because the member asking did not meet the swap criteria as she had received an Improvement Notice in the last year.
5. It was agreed we could proceed to let the plot where water mis use had occurred. Any digging required to ascertain where the illegal water connection had been made would not impact that plot. It was agreed to email the tenants who had been evicted due to water misuse to remind them to return their keys and inform them that their plots would now be relet. Also agreed to store papers on water misuse in Dropbox. **AR to action**
6. A disabled plot holder has asked for better access to her plot. Merton rules do not permit us to tarmac the path as requested, so we have offered an alternative plot next to a tarmacked path. Plot holder has not responded. It was agreed to write to her setting a deadline for a potential move. **Action: KW**
7. 38A dumping incident, believed to be carried out by the occupants of the house with the adjoining gate to the plot. The gate had been closed up but has recently been re-opened. It was agreed to write to the house occupants asking for them to return any key and reminding them access to the site is not available to them and also to let plot holder know about the history. **AR/ KW to action.**

Planning for Harvest Festival

8. Harvest celebration agreed for 10 September, 12pm to 4pm. Barbecue (**SB/ RR to organise**), encourage people to come forward with ideas (**monthly email KW**). We should invite the school principal (**KW**), Alan Trumper and Mel Higgs (**SB**) from Merton, Jane from DR Close (**SB**), local police (**JR**), and ward Councillors (**AR**). **SB to do a poster**. Standard requests for food donation and prizes for children for funniest vegetable.

Unauthorised gate access into the Farm

9. It has been discovered that there is unauthorised access into the Farm from someone who does not have a plot but has access to the Farm via a gate in a back garden. They help their next door neighbours with their plot. Appears to be a historic arrangement which doesn't present any difficulty. It was agreed that we should contact the plot holder, say we understand that they are sharing the plot with a neighbour, ask for contact details. For future reference, to note on the database all addresses with back garden access to the site so that these can be closed up as and when tenancies end. **KW/ AR to action**.

AOB

10. Agreed to hire a skip for 23 September to tie in with Community Day.
11. SB checking out contingency plan for website running if current web support contact is not available. **Action: SB**

COMMUNICATIONS ACTION FOR AUGUST

To:	Format of communication:	Topic/Issue:	Action:	By:
All	Email	Harvest Festival suggestions	KW	10 August
RA		Digital NSALG magazine (And some hard copies in the ehd)	KW	10 August
All	Email	Seed catalogue, we benefit when they buy	KW	10 August
All	Email	Morden Community Fridge	KW	10 August

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	RR to work with Melrose College on boundary issues	RR	Sep 2023
7 Aug	Ask evicted tenants to return keys	AR	Sep 2023
7 Aug	Write to occupants of house in DR Close about access to the site	AR/ KW	Sep 2023
7 Aug	Write to plot holder sharing plot with neighbours	AR/KW	Sep 2023
7 Aug	Write to disabled plot holder about alternative plot	KW	Sep 2023
7 Aug	Harvest Festival plans	SB/ AR/ KW/ JR/ RR	Sep 2023
7 Aug	Make contingency plans for website	SB	Sep 2023

Dates for the Diary

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