



TAMWORTH FARM ALLOTMENT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 7.00pm, 8 January 2023

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

Apologies

1. No apologies were received.

Minutes and Actions

2. Minutes from the December meeting were agreed. No progress on blue pallets yet, JR to chase. AR has looked at comparison between Wave (Merton's supplier) and Castle, Wave currently looking more expensive so not worth switching to them. AR has signed up to some water comparison sites to explore whether there is any other company available.

Site Maintenance and Security

3. RR updated the Committee on site maintenance. SB serviced the Farm lock; green waste bay emptied in December; AR fixed the RA toolshed lock; fence surrounding the Horseshoe community area is completed, next step is to look at the decking and food prep area of the community shed. AR updated the Committee that he has submitted a planning application to increase the height of the fence. Alan Trumper at Merton has been informed. No payment was required because TFAS is acting on Merton's behalf, and so the planning application is in their name.

Community Events/ Workday Plans

4. RR floated the idea of an annual plant sale in May, other allotments raise significant sums that way. We do hold small seed swaps and plant sales, but they are poorly attended and don't raise any funding. A more substantial plant sale would need significant organisation. Another plot holder is interested in setting something up, RR will see if they have the appetite to take this on and put the work in. Date in May to be agreed. **Action RR**
5. Community workday agreed for 24 February, 23 March (with a focus on Rose Avenue) and 28 April. KW and SB to advertise them in posters and emails.
6. Harvest Festival agreed for Saturday 14 September. AGM agreed for Sunday 10 November.
7. Agreed to gauge interest in a locally provided composting workshop. RR/ EC to arrange with Phil Smith. Longer term, test interest for a master class with Capital Growth.

Party Noise/ Curfew

8. SB and KW updated the Committee on the noise complaint over Christmas. The noise was at an unacceptable level, late at night and local neighbours had been seriously disturbed. Committee members discussed options for managing the issue to avoid further impact on neighbours. AR recommended that we approach people on site to discuss and seek agreement on options for curfews, (both for music ending and for events to end) and on

leaving the site as quietly as possible. A curfew would be more likely to be stuck to if it was agreed, rather than imposed. JR noted that it sounded like the rule on sound systems had been breached and should be reinforced. SB noted that she had already opened discussions with some plot holders who were keen to engage and understood the sensitivities. **Action: SB to meet plot holders to open discussions on curfews and report back. SB will discuss options based around the rules attached to the local fairground.**

AOB

9. Chicken Update: We engaged with the plot holder setting out the rules that would likely be needed to keep chickens, the plot holders has decided against keeping any chickens on site.

10. Tree request: We have had a request from a plot holder to cut down a large apple tree on their plot, which is frequently diseased with codling moths, casts a lot of shade on her and others' plots and is time consuming to manage. Agreed that she has made a reasonable case for removal and so this should be agreed, but she should be asked to arrange disposal of the tree branches and trunk herself, not use the green waste bay.

COMMUNICATIONS ACTION FOR JANUARY

To:	Format of communication:	Topic/Issue:	Action:	By:
All	Email	Dates of Community Work days	KW	
All	Email			

Item	Action	Name	Target date/ Completed
14 Nov 2022	Investigate Rose Avenue handover terms and historic use of land	JR	30 May 2023
3 April 2023	Bring forward a proposal on using and letting the community shed	SB	30 May 2023
5 June	AR/ KW to consider next year's cultivation guidelines including action on cumulative non cultivators	AR/ KW	Feb 2024
7 Aug	Make contingency plans for website	SB	Oct 23
2 Oct	Arrange removal of pallets	JR	31 Oct
4 Dec	Take a Committee group photo	ALL	Spring
20 Nov	Investigate value for money of alternative water supplier using switch website	AR	End Jan 2024
4 Dec	Consider options to repair/ renew RA notice board	SB/ RR	End Dec 2023
4 Dec	Plan new planting for RA communal bed	BS/ JR	28 Feb 2024

8 Jan	Discuss with FC potential for a May plant sale	RR	28 Feb 2024
8 Jan	Plan local walk around on composting and, longer term, gauge interest in Capital Growth master class	RR/ EC	28 Feb 2024
8 Jan	Talk to Horseshoe plot holders about ways of managing parties on site	SB	31 Jan 2024

Dates for the Diary 2024

5 February 2024

4 March 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