

BUSHY PARK ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting: -	COMMITTEE MEETING	
Date & Time: -	20 th March 2016 – 11.00 AM	
Location	The Shop, Bushy Park Allotments	
Minutes prepared by: -	Robin Hewitt	
Present: -	Phil Iddison(Chairman), Robin Hewitt (Secretary), Jenny Bevan (Treasurer), Christina Aston, Joe Ambaye, Bryan Basdell, Vicky Phillips, Giuseppe de Vai, Chris Pickard, Steph Bateman, Cleve West, Maria Casey	
Apologies: -	Ray Brown, John Whitby, Shelagh Secola	
Circulation: -	Committee members, notice boards, Pete Lewis	
Item	Minute	Action by
1	Meeting of 31st January 2016 The minutes were agreed. PI is to issue the new area representatives' plan.	PI
2	Finance The Treasurer reported only minor expenditure in the month and that the current balance stood at £1666.99.	
3	Events The next event is the Open Day on 7 th May.	
4	The Shop The shop has now re-opened and a delivery is expected from Chapman's.	
5	Liaison with the Council Following the problems recently encountered, the liaison arrangements with the Council were discussed and reviewed, including the role of the BPAA in plot disputes. The following were agreed: 1) RH will email the Council regarding the present position with Mr. Nguyen. 2) Plottolders with complaints should report these to the Council via the Council website. RH will draft a revised notice for the notice boards and the website, highlighting that problems with thefts or intimidation in particular should be reported in this manner. 3) It was agreed that each area representative should regularly report neglected plots to the Council directly by email with supporting photographs. 4) The Council will be asked that once it has signed up new tenants, it will advise BPAA of names, plot numbers and, if possible, email addresses, to enable the committee to welcome them. 5) RH is to prepare a draft report to the Council advising them of the agreed approach. 6) RH is to circulate a copy of the Council eviction procedures following complaints.	RH RH All RH RH
6	Communications PI is to issue a new newsletter to include a reiteration of the advice on complaints. It will also include guidance on what can be burnt. PI requested any other contributions	All
7	Community Area GdeV, John and Henry are undertaking work on the Community Area including the paved area. CP volunteered to take on the two raised beds in the North West corner..	
8	Any Other Business None	
9	Next meeting The next Committee Meeting will be held at the shop on 22 nd May 2016.	

Addendum to minutes of 20th March 2016

Council Procedures on evictions following complaints as per D. Allister email of 9 March 2016

Each case is different so a typical example is difficult, but here is a typical process in such a case:-

1. Complaint received
2. Contact the person in question and ask for an explanation
3. From that account more questions will arise eg witnesses
4. Speak to witnesses and ask for their account
5. Gather the information together and review
6. Go back to original person to clarify any points
7. Possibly have to go back to witnesses to clarify
8. Make a decision

This process can take some time as getting hold of everyone can take time, arranging meetings can take time, getting the accounts in writing and getting them verified can take time, setting up second meetings, and then if you add in a situation where there is a language barrier and arranging to have an interpreter there for meetings – I am sure you appreciate this all takes time, and has to be accommodated around all those involved.

There are many cases where we have terminated for breaches across the borough, and then often they are appealed via Councillors and MP's, which means they are reviewed again. Also in a case where there is an alleged theft the police must be informed and often a decision must be deferred pending a police investigation.

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