

BUSHY PARK ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting: -	COMMITTEE MEETING
Date & Time: -	26 th January 2020 11.00am
Location	Community Area, Bushy Park Allotments
Minutes prepared by: -	Robin Hewitt
Present: -	Joseph Ambaye (Chairman), Robin Hewitt (Secretary), Christina Aston (Treasurer), Bryan Basdell, David Wright, Vicky Phillips
Apologies: -	Gillian Wilkinson
Circulation: -	Committee members, notice boards, website, Pete Lewis

Item	Minute	Action by
1	<p>Meeting of 24th November 2019</p> <p>The minutes were accepted. Actions arising:</p> <p>1) JA will send RH the modifiable map for him to complete.</p> <p>2) JA noted that he had a number of volunteers for the compost area clearing and will approach them about committee membership. All committee members are also to approach possible candidates.</p>	<p>JA</p> <p>All</p>
2	<p>Finance</p> <p>CA circulated the latest Treasurer's report. This showed a balance of £889.12, following the renewal of the RHS membership and the taking out of Public Liability Insurance. RH will circulate the policy and check if ploholders are covered. The report included a breakdown of costs for the new compost area. So far a total of £1222.67 is to be reclaimed from the Council, who will be making a BACS transfer. JA estimated that the costs for the remaining work will be low as this is mostly volunteer labour.</p>	RH
4	<p>Events</p> <p>It was agreed that money raised on the Open Day on May 16th will be used partly to replenish the BPAA funds (to include measures for the disposal of timber, metal and plastics) and partly for charity. JA considered we needed to plan better for the day with a detailed schedule, including who does what, and will prepare a draft.</p>	JA
5	<p>Liaison with the Council</p> <p>1) Communal composting. JA reported that the current bins were full and he had asked the council to send a chipper and empty them, but was told the Council still needs to appoint a suitable contractor. As the bins are full he is also planning to extend the area to the neighbouring plot and has arranged a volunteer session on February 22nd to clear the plot.</p> <p>It was agreed we need to find a section for perennial weeds as the Council will only remove chippable material. JA noted that BRAG is investigating with the Council training programmes for new starters.</p> <p>2) RH reported that he had now let all the vacant plots in decent condition. He suggested that he should now ask the Council for the next batch, emphasising to them that the present plots needed a lot of clearance work. This was agreed. He will circulate a list of vacant plots and those recently let.</p> <p>JA had discussed at BRAG the use of Community Payback people to clear plots as this has been tried at other sites. Close supervision is required. He will investigate further.</p> <p>Concern was again expressed at the state of the many neglected plots, but RH advised that the Council were not planning an inspection until April. It was not clear whether the Council had a final list of unpaid invoices and thus could terminate on this basis. It was noted that in future invoices will include the note that payment of invoices confirms acceptance of the Allotment Terms and</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>JA</p>

	<p>Conditions.</p> <p>3) 56 plots were flooded after the heavy rain before Christmas and standing water has only finally disappeared from some of them this week. We have been trying to get a meeting with the Council and the Royal Parks to discuss the matter and have some suggestions as to how matters might be improved. We are also hoping to liaise with Hampton Pool who have also been greatly affected. DW is to draft a letter to the new Park Manager once he is in post and to contact the BRAG chairman, Paul Leonard, as he has some experience in this area. DW agreed to lead for the committee on this issue. No rapid resolution is expected.</p>	DW
6	<p>Communications</p> <p>Newsletters nos .51 and 52 have been issued. Many thanks to Phil Iddison for these.</p> <p>The website has been updated and now includes a contact email address that RH will monitor. VP has added a number of pictures to the gallery and requested that others do so if they have them.</p>	
7	<p>Community Areas</p> <p>JA noted that the pergolas need repairing.</p> <p>VP noted that the charity using the southern area is now planning to start work.</p>	
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>JA advised that that no progress had been made with the Council on plot numbering and we would be better to advance this ourselves.</p>	
8	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Sunday 29th March 2020 at 11.00am.</p>	