

Baildon Horticultural Society

Minutes of Zoom Meeting 11 January 2021

TAKING PART

John Turner JT (Chair)
Robin Weedon RW
Charlotte Martin CM
Sue Wheatley SW
Ian Helyar IH
Dawn Tinsley DT
Louise Mallinson LM
Richard Nottidge RN
Claire Waterworth CW
Eric Warerworth EW
Kate Senior KS

1. Apologies – Mike Webster MW

2. Chairs opening remarks – JT explained that there had been problems with the handover to the new Treasurer and tabled the following motion:

“Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Committee resolves to co-opt Jon Lee to continue in the role of Treasurer for a maximum period of 5 weeks or until such time when a formal ‘handover’ can be arranged to the elected Treasurer Claire Waterworth.”

JT advised that he would be in touch with last years Treasurer, who has agreed to update the accounts and bank any monies received from the shop. CM advised that she had received tenancy monies. LM advised that she had a number of tenancy cheques. It was agreed that these should be held onto until the situation was resolved. RN asked whether JT was confident that the money situation was under control and JT confirmed that he was. He advised however that whilst he was a signatory on the account that this didn't give him electronic access to the accounts. **(Action - JT)**.

The motion was agreed unanimously.

3.Actions from previous Zoom Meeting:

None

4. Members Issues – Whether to have a rolling membership was discussed. RN noted that it would require checking non plot holder membership monthly. LM advised that most non plot holder members usually re-join in the early spring when they want to use the shops. In the past if anyone joined at the show later in the year they had been given a few months of free membership. It was agreed to keep the membership dates the same and review later in the year.

RW explained that the website had been built using BT Community (a free service) but that this was being wound up. A company would be taking over and charging £5 per month. However, the architecture and structure that was provided was not worth this and that he was happy to redesign the site, from the ground up, himself. CW commented that it was important to have a good website. KS asked whether templates could be provided that others could amended and RW confirmed that this would be possible. RW also advised that it would be possible to get better statistics regarding usage.

The Committee agreed that RW should do the work himself rather than use the company taking over from BT on the basis that the costs would be similar. **(Action RW)**

5.Reports

- Allotment Officers.

Charlestown - CM reported that there are 14 on the waiting list for garden plots and 5 for smallholder plots with a number of plots likely to be coming up. Due to avian flu birds have had to be kept inside. The Town Council and the warden from Bradford Council have visited and confirmed that the DEFRA requirements are being complied with. It is possible that by spring DEFRA might bring in more local restrictions depending upon where cases are.

Thompson Lane - LM reported that there are 16 on the waiting list and no spare plots.

JT advised that the Town Council didn't have any budget left to provide gritting bins. CM advised that it might be better to move the one at Charlestown to nearer the gate. PL has purchased 2 bags of grit for use.

- Treasurer Report – No report (see 2 above)
- Secretary – nothing to report
- Health and Safety – Only issue the need to grit when icy and that it looked like it was ok for us to put it down and that there were no liability issues.
- Show Secretary – advised that due to Covid there was no point organising anything yet as we don't know whether we will be able to use the school. Most of the trophies have been returned and LM will ask plot holders at Thompson Lane who have trophies to return theirs.

6. Role of Treasurer

Discussed under 2 above.

7. Avian Flu Update

Dealt with under 5 above

8. Telephone Boxes

RW, DT and KS had been looking into these. RW reported that the boxes in Station Road and by The Junction PH were in a very poor condition, with smashed windows. He tabled a design for the Junction one which involved the removal of the windows and the use of the remaining structure for climbing plants and the bed within which the box stands also planted up. The planting to be informed by a brewing theme. There is good footfall where the Station Road box is and it might be possible to use this as a greenhouse and a pop-up shop. A design for this was also tabled.

JT reported that a bid had been submitted to the Town Council to remove the Station Road box and move it to Charlestown for use as a seed swap but that it looked that it might be difficult to move it.

A working group was set up to investigate the use of the telephone boxes further, to be chaired by RW with EW and KS. Mark from the Town Council also wants to be involved and it was suggested that maybe the P.O and pub might like to be too. The Town Council has donated £1500 and it was agreed unanimously by the Committee that BHS would provide £250. **(Action RW, EW, KS)**

JT to contact the clerk of the Town Council for the key to the boxes. **(Action JT)**

9. Electricity for huts

RN provided a slide presentation (attached) which pulled together the research carried out by the working party. The recommended method would cost around £3,500 per site, with Thompson Lane being prioritised because of the security issues it had experienced. Funding is to be sought from the Town Council but it expected that BHS would need to pay for a proportion of the work.

JT thanked RN for the work.

Some members of the Committee expressed reservations about the costs of the work; particularly because the Society had made a loss the previous year.

RN was asked to see if the supplier would give a discount if the Society did both sites at the same time. **(Action RN)**

KS queried whether anyone had looked into grant programmes and offered to do so. JT noted however that this might not be an option because of the Town Council involvement **(Action KS – check alternative grant sources)**

The following resolution was voted upon and accepted by the Committee:

In principle, agree the solar power option with Thompson Lane being the first recipient but hold off from a final decision until know what funding is to be provided by the Town Council (request 75%).

(Action RN)

CW wondered whether there might be Insurance implications. IH advised that so long as the Insurer knew about the solar panels it shouldn't be a problem.

10. School Liaison

Due to Covid still on hold. A working group will be required.

11. Plot for elderly/those needing assistance

SW and IH suggested having a shared plot/community plot to be available for plotheolders finding it difficult to manage a larger plot and for those on the waiting list to enable them to gain some experience before taking on a normal sized plot. The plot at the entrance to Charlestown (18S) was suggested as it was accessible and was also already divided into a number of smaller plots. Whilst there was some support for the principle of doing this there concerns raised about the practicality.

It was agreed to pilot for a year. IH to put together a proposal. SW to assist. **(Action IH and SW).**

12. Plans for Coming Year

JT advised that this should be put on hold until we are able to have an away day. Possibly at the golf club; maybe in March/April.

12. AOB

LM advised that plotheolders at Caroline Street Allotments were interested in buying from our shops and wondered whether we should have affiliated membership. **(Action- to be discussed at away day).**

CM expressed concern about security as some plot holders who have given up their plots have not returned their keys to the gate. After discussion it was concluded that this probably didn't pose too much of a security risk.

DT reported that the door to the sales hut at Charlestown needed some repairs. JT to inspect on Sunday. **(Action JT)**

CM would like 200 membership cards, LM 100 and RN 150. **(Action RW).**

13. Date of Next Meeting:

Zoom 8 February 19:00