

# Baildon Horticultural Society

## Minutes of Zoom Meeting 8 February 2021

### TAKING PART

John Turner JT (Chair)  
Louise Mallinson LM  
Robin Weedon RW  
Charlotte Martin CM  
Sue Wheatley SW  
Ian Helyar IH  
Dawn Tinsley DT  
Richard Nottidge RN  
Claire Waterworth CW  
Peter Linley PL

**1. Apologies** – Mike Webster MW, Eric Waterworth EW

**2. Chairs opening remarks** – JT wanted it recorded that the Committee thanked Elisabete for all her hard work organising the shop over the last couple of years. DT mentioned that Elisabete had been given a voucher to use at ACW.

JT reported that Bradford Council had advised that a large building on one of the plots required planning permission. The Council has given a deadline of 6 April for the submission of a retrospective planning application however the Town Council have advised that it is unlikely to support such an application. To avoid future problems the rules have been reviewed. (to be discussed under item 9). JT reported that some concerns had been received about the reduced height of the front boundary hedge and that Mark from the Town Council had been to inspect it.

### **3. Actions from previous Zoom Meetings:**

- New website – RW confirmed that this was progressing but that he had around 75 days before it needed to be changed and that he would work on it this month. **(Action -RW)**
- Charlestown Door Repair **(Action -Simon)**
- Water supply- was switched off and Members were advised. It has now been switched back on at Thompson Lane. A plumber is being organised for Charlestown because of burst pipes **(Action- PL (Wynn))**
- Present Elisabete – done
- Shop rota **(Action – DT)**
- Show – the Headteacher has confirmed that she is happy for the school to be used. Date 5<sup>th</sup> September
- Open gardens – on hold until 2022
- Telephone boxes – see item 6
- Electricity for huts – see item 7
- Repair to Thompson Lane Hut- 2 quotes received for similar amounts (£650 and £670). CW and EW to speak to builders to see who can do it sooner. The Committee voted and agreed unanimously to give CW and EW the authority to choose the builder based upon this. Quotes to be e-mailed to SW and attached to minutes. **(Action CW, EW, SW)**
- Other improvements at Thompson Lane – deferred to next meeting **(Action EW)**
- Community Plot – see item 8
- Chickens on Charlestown Garden Plots – defer for a year

**4. Members Issues** – None

### **5. Reports**

- Allotment Officers:

Charlestown – CM reported that there were 15 on the waiting list and 4 (possibly 5) vacant plots. She hoped to sign 2 new tenants up this weekend and then she would look at the next people on the list for the remaining plots.

Thompson Lane - LM reported that there are 17 on the waiting list and that there might be a plot about to become vacant but she was waiting for a response from the tenant.

- Treasurer – JT has been given the account information and he and LM have been instructed in their operation. DT has looked at the spreadsheet. The accounts are more or less up to date. Clive ~~xxxxx~~ is to take on the role of temporary Treasurer for the next couple of months. JT to handover ( **Action – JT**)
- Secretary – nothing to report
- Health and Safety – No issues to report; Indeed the site is looking much improved. LM reported that volunteers had helped dig a plot at Thompson Lane and she wanted to record her thanks.
- Show Secretary – show to be held on 5 September. DT to set up a sub-committee. There were some reservations about contacting businesses for sponsorship because many may have been affected by covid restrictions.

## 6. Telephone Boxes

A meeting has been held and members of the working group have inspected the sites. RW has started work on the box near The Junction PH. The door is rotten and if it can't be repaired it will cost around £400 to re-do. This would still leave sufficient funds to fit out the boxes and purchase plants.

JT reported that his neighbour had a telephone box but wanted £400 for it if anyone was interested.

## 7. Electricity for huts

RN advised that the grant for solar power had been received from the Town Council and the order had been placed. An installation date would be confirmed following the required work to the fascia having been completed. He referred to the e-mail he had sent round to the Committee advising that the Town Council were going to include a statement on their website.

JT queried whether there were separate quotes for the two sites and RN confirmed that there were. JT is investigating alternative sources of funding for Charlestown. (**Action – JT**)

## 8. Community/Communal Plot.

IH referred to his attached paper. No existing tenants had come forward expressing an interest in the parcels. A vote was taken and it was agreed that IH would liaise with CM to offer the parcels to those on the waiting list. (**Action – IH, CM**)

LM advised that she was keen to do something similar at Thompson Lane when a suitable plot became available.

## 9. Permission for sheds, greenhouses, polytunnels (see attached)

JT explained why he had put together the form and that SW had suggested that it also include a line for the agreed dimensions of the shed, greenhouse or polytunnel. JT to liaise with SW to add the form as an Addendum to the rules. (**Action – JT, SW**)

It was noted that consideration should be given to whether to specify appropriate sizes and that this would be discussed at the away day. (**Action for away day**)

## 10. Baildon only Plot Holder

JT referred to an issue which had arisen at Charlestown about where a recent tenant was living and that the tenant had been given time but couldn't prove residence within Baildon.

A vote was taken and the Committee ratified that all plots should go to residents of Baildon unless the plot had been held before 2010 (in accordance with the rules).

## **11. Fundraising**

JT reported that the Society's funds were looking good. The accounts showed that it had around £20,000 with £8,000 of this in reserve. This accorded with the Charity Commission's advice that an organisation should have around a 1/3 to a 1/2 of their turnover in reserve. Allowing for bills to be paid, there was probably around £5,000 to £6,000 available for use. Whilst this could be put towards the solar power at Charlestown it might be better to save this for future projects.

JT referred to the Climate Action Fund (a grant available in the Shipley area) and wondered whether a bid could be submitted to renovate the huts at Charlestown as they suffer from condensation which drips onto the stock. RN noted that bids needed to be submitted within a month and that getting costings would take time. He suggested therefore that a bid be submitted for the solar power. IH asked if the Town Council would be likely to have an issue with this due to their grant for the work. JT advised that this would be fine as they'd been happy for the bulk of their grant to be used for Thompson Lane. **(Action JT).**

Fundraising to be a subject for the away day. **(Action for away day)**

## **12. New shop arrangements**

DT advised that she had been reviewing some of the composts that the society uses. She was also trying to get new people to work in the shop. The possibility of opening for 2 hours on a Sunday was being considered. The second garage had been cleared and a skip was required for the rubbish. DT agreed to organise the skip. **(Action DT).**

After 29 March it should be possible for groups of 6 to meet outdoors and a meeting is to be arranged to involve DT, PL and JT to discuss the shop. **(Action DT, PL and JT)**

## **13. AOB**

LM reported that she had asked for a quote to do work to a laurel hedge between two plots but that there was no need for a skip at Thompson Lane yet. The Committee voted to give Thompson Lane the delegated authority to spend up to £250 on items for the allotments, without reference to the Committee, provided this was not a regular expenditure.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting:**

Zoom Monday 12 April 19:00