

BAILDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting dated 11 April 2022 held at Baildon Golf Club

PRESENT - John Turner (JT), Louise Mallinson (LM), Peter Linley (PL), Sue Wheatley (SW), Ian Helyar (IH), Richard Nottidge (RN), Catherine Dunne (CD), Robin Weedon (RW), Jan Studzinski (JS)

1.APOLOGIES– Mike Webster (MW), Charlotte Martin (CM), Dawn Tinsley (DT), Susan Kean (SK)

2. CHAIRS OPENING REMARKS

JT advised that Clive had asked for a paying in book and that the next garden talk was on 19 April about the design of the Hepworth Garden.

3. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- **Water has been turned on**
- **E-mail has been sent round about the Charlestown gate.**
- **An article about portable toilets had been included in the newsletter.**
- **A report has been circulated about health and safety issues on one of the smallholder plots** (discussed under health and safety report)
- **Thompson Lane boundary tree-** it had proved impossible to contact the Town Council (**Action outstanding - JT**)
- **Advert in schedule from Golf Club** – IH had contacted the club. RW to forward to IH the information from the last time the club placed an advert (**Action - IH, RW**)
- **Volunteer needed to coordinate trips and talks** - JT advised that no one had come forward. SW volunteered to take on the role (**Action SW**)
- **Photos of Committee Members** – RW would like to take some action shots at the allotments (**Action – RW**)
- **An article seeking volunteers for the project at Hoyle Court had been included in the newsletter.** RW asked to be contacted when planting is carried out so that he can photograph (**action – DT**)

4. MEMBERS ISSUES

SW advised that a plot holder had expressed concern that an oil drum was being used to the rear of his plot to burn wood. (discussed under 9)

LM advised that she had received a complaint about a willow and bamboo hedge impacting on a neighbouring plot. It had been suggested that a working party be organised to address this before the plot was let to a new tenant. LM advised that she didn't consider this to be necessary.

5. REPORTS

Allotment Officers Reports:

Charlestown – CM advised, by e-mail, that there are 13 on the waiting list and that one tenant would be halving his plot in a few weeks time. SW had sent a letter about inadequate cultivation of one plot and CM had e-mailed the tenant of another plot with a similar concern.

Thompson Lane – LM reported there are 9 on the waiting list and that the new tenants were generally working well.

Treasurer's Report

CM went through the accounts. It was noted that the balance was healthy. JT highlighted the need to ensure that the reserve was kept within reasonable limits. The possibility of using any surplus to kickstart trips/talks was discussed.

Secretary's Report

Letter sent about the condition of a plot at Charlestown.

JT queried whether it should be the responsibility of the Secretary or the Treasurer to ensure that the Society maintained its affiliated membership. SW advised that it appeared in the past that this had been the responsibility of the Treasurer. To be discussed further (**Action SW, CD**)

SW queried whether, now a sub Committee had been set up for Charlestown, this sub Committee could be given responsibility for writing the improvement letters. JT to speak to sub Committee to consider. (**Action JT**)

Membership Report

20 years ago there were 500 members without allotments now there are only 40. RW to produce a leaflet highlighting the advantages of membership. Cost for 500 is £40, 1,000 is £60. A pamphlet is to be produced at the end of the year bringing together advice contained within the newsletter. RW mentioned that the Society has a blog in addition to the newsletter.

JT expressed concern that the Town Council was putting a copy of the newsletter on its website and that non members were thus getting it for free. It was suggested that the tips section could become a summary with members only being able to access the detail through a link.

Health and Safety Report

IH referred to the report that he had circulated about one of the smallholder plots. It was agreed that any asbestos (if that was what it was) was not damaged and not therefore an immediate problem. It was agreed that the most appropriate time to address the issue would be when the plot was taken over by a new tenant. IH noted that there might be a need to use professional contractors. IH to do a follow up note. (**Action -IH**)

Show Secretary's Report

DT had circulated a note as she was not able to make the meeting. She highlighted the need to find someone to give out the prizes and suggested Roger Golton (**action PL/Don**).

6. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT BILDON LINK

JT advised that he had been contacted by Lucy Maddison. The Link has an over 55 friendship group that would like some assistance with gardening. The shed project is making 2 large planters for the group to use. What they are looking for is someone to provide advice and be a mentor. RN noted that he was aware of a member who was interested in volunteering for a project. (**Action RN** to see if this project would be of interest).

7. FLY TIPPING

JT advised that it had been reported to him that a tenant had been accessing someone else's plot and fly tipping onto the Manor Paints Car Park. JT had spoken to the tenant and advised him to stop. The tenant of the adjoining plot had retrieved the rubbish and piled it up in the small car park.

Another tenant had burnt it in the centre of the car park as he was worried that someone might have a fire too close to a shed.

8. JUNE SOCIAL/MINI SHOW/OPEN GARDENS EVENT

JT to ask the new Charlestown sub Committee to consider **(Action JT)**

9. BONFIRES

JT had previously circulated an example of a rule about bonfires and asked the committee to consider whether our rules needed to be changed. The Committee discussed the issue highlighting air pollution and also the flammable nature of polytunnels. RN suggested that rather than change the rules it might be more appropriate to produce guidelines. IH to consider further and circulate a report **(Action IH)**

10.AOB

LM advised that Baildon Welcomes Walkers is to visit Thomson Lane on 27 May. JT asked LM to see if they also wanted to visit Charlestown sometime. **(action LM)**.

IH advised that in the winter months the golf club wouldn't be able to host meetings on a Monday evening. It was suggested that maybe winter meetings should be conducted using zoom. SW to add as an Agenda item for the next meeting (**Action SW**).

10, NEXT MEETING— 7:00 Monday 9 May at Baildon Golf Club