

Baildon Horticultural Society
Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 June 2022
Baildon Golf Club

PRESENT - Dawn Tinsley (DT), Charlotte Martin (CM), Robin Weedon (RW), Louise Mallinson (LM), Peter Linley (PL), Jan Studzinski (JS), Sue Wheatley (SW), Ian Helyar (IH), Susan Kean (SK)

1 Apologies for absence: John Turner, Richard Nottidge , Mike Webster, Catherine Dunne

2 Chair's opening remarks

LM chaired the meeting and began by saying how good the jubilee celebration was and that she'd wished that she could have stayed longer.

3 Actions from previous meeting:

- Photos of Committee Members – RW confirmed that he'd taken photos of most Committee members and would contact SK for a time to take her photo. (RW)
- Hoyle Court item for website – RW confirmed that he had taken photos and would adapt the article from the newsletter (RW)
- Affiliated membership – SW advised that she thought it had been done but needed final confirmation from Treasurer (CD)
- Should allotment sub-committee write letters? Agreed to continue as currently.
- Jubilee get together – completed
- Winter meetings (see 6)
- Move cardboard – completed
- Trips and talks (see 7)
- Open garden (see 8)

4 Member's Issues - None

5 Reports:

Allotment Officers:

Charlestown - CM reported that there were now 14 on the waiting list and that one plot was due to become vacant.

Thompson Lane – LM reported that there were 10 on the waiting list. The conservatory needs to be erected in the next 3 weeks.

Treasurer (CM) - No report

Secretary - no report

Health and Safety – IH mentioned the open garden to be discussed under 8

Show Secretary – DT reported that the Schedule was almost ready to be printed and that her next task was to organise stall holders. She reported that a poster had been displayed seeking tombola prizes. IH reported that he had discussed getting the farmers market tables from the local farmer.

6. Winter Meetings

It was agreed that winter meetings (November, January, February, March), apart from the AGM would be zoom meetings. RW advised that there would be a charge of around £14 a month.

7. Trips and Talks

SW referred to the paper that had been circulated the previous month. She expressed concern that no one had responded to the newsletter and wondered whether members were actually interested in trips and talks. The Committee discussed the paper and noted the following:

- Start talks next year
- Just choose the subjects; starting with a generic one about growing vegetables. (The RHS has a list of possible speakers covering a range of topics)
- Investigate the following as possible locations – St Hughes, The Community Link, The Hub at the Methodist Church, St Aidan’s Catholic Church
- Contact Eldwick and see if there are months when they don’t have talks and whether we could cover these dates and invite Eldwick members
- There is interest in garden visits. There was support for a trip to RHS Bridgewater

(Action – SW)

8. Open Gardens

LM advised that around 10 gardens were going to be open in Baildon. She thought that the organiser would provide notices to be displayed about uneven paths etc but would check (**action LM**).

As her garden would be open she wouldn't be available to organise the opening of Thompson Lane. SK would organise this. (**Action – SK**)

JT had circulated a request for volunteers but no one knew if volunteers had come forward although a few e-mails had been received offering help to tidy the sites up prior to the open day and advising that they would be at their plots on the open day. The Committee noted that no objections had been received to the opening of the plots.

SW and CM are available for part of the day at Charlestown.

The Committee agreed that visitors to the sites would need to be greeted and advised to stick to the main paths and not to enter individual plots unless invited to do so.

SW offered to put together a plan for Charlestown showing the main paths (**Action SW**). DT mentioned that she had arrows that were used for the show and that these could be made available. (**Action -DT**).

The possibility of the shops being open was mentioned but someone would need to be available to man them.

RW suggested that the Society could help to promote the Baildon Open Gardens. LM will contact the organiser of the Baildon Open Gardens to see if she would like this to be done (**Action - LM and RW**)

LM suggested that membership forms could be handed out on the day. (**Action ??**)

9.Rats at Charlestown – amendment to rules

LM read out the paper provided by JT. The Committee agreed unanimously to the amendment to rule 17 to allow 2 approved members to use air guns for a trial period of 6 months at Charlestown in an attempt to control the rat population. This will be done at night when no one else is on the plot (night vision will be used). (**Action SW to update the rules**).

10. AOB

SW apologised for forgetting to include the proposed other change to the rules as a separate item. This was discussed but a decision was deferred to the next meeting for further clarification.

Concern was expressed that some plot holder let surplus produce go to waste. DT mentioned that surplus could be taken to the food bank in Bradford but that they didn't collect. SK mentioned that there was an App where surplus produce could be advertised and that she would try and find out about it (**Action SK**).

It was agreed that the easiest way would be to encourage ploholders to leave surplus on the swap bench area on a particular day (maybe Sunday? **Any actions ??**)

Concerns were expressed about the value of the allotment competition. Different independent judges have been used over the last few years and there had been inconsistencies. Baildon Town Council also have not been providing the prize monies. This year the prizes are not going to be given at the show. It was agreed by the Committee that the best thing to do would be to hold a barbeque sometime in August and give the prizes out at this event. Looking forward, the Committee questioned the value of using different independent judges each year. The consensus was that it might be better for the Committee to just look at the newcomer allotments and judge then on the basis of the priorities of the Society. Any decision about what to do can be announced at the AGM.

Concern was expressed that weedkiller was sometimes being used on communal areas which had to be walked over to access plots, which was a potential problem for members who were cultivating their plots on organic principles. A change to the rules will need to be drafted and reported to a Committee meeting for a decision. (**Action – SW**)

12 Date of next meeting 7:00 Monday July 11th.