

**Baildon Horticultural Society**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 August 2022**  
**Baildon Golf Club**

**PRESENT** – John Turner (JT), Louise Mallinson (LM), Dawn Tinsley (DT), Robin Weedon (RW), Peter Linley (PL), Sue Wheatley (SW), Ian Helyar (IH), Catherine Dunne (CD), Richard Nottidge (RN)

**1.Apologies for absence:** Charlotte Martin (CM), Jan Studzinski (JS), Richard Nottidge (RN), Susan Kean (SK)

**2. Chair’s opening remarks**

JT mentioned the issue that had arisen with the road planings from Chris Wright. He also asked that the change to the rules to allow designated persons to shoot rats be extended and this was agreed by the Committee ( **Action SW**).

**3 Actions from previous meeting:**

- Hoyle Court Article underway (**Action RW**)
- Use of weedkiller on communal areas - rule change – action still outstanding (**Action SW**)
- Update risk assessment (**Action IH**)
- Add open gardens to January/February Agenda (**Action SW**)
- Agreed that BHS would fund Thompson Lane notice board.
- Sarah has confirmed that she will do audit.
- Guidelines for smallholder plots. JT to get all smallholders together to discuss. IH suggested that when new smallholders came on to the site we should be satisfied of their competency to look after livestock. SW suggested there needed to be penalties for smallholders. JT to contact the Town Council and convene a working group. (**Action JT**)

**4 Member’s Issues** – SW advised that she had been informed that a tap was leaking. DT reported that she had fixed it. All taps are to receive attention.

**5 Reports:**

**Allotment Officers:**

**Charlestown** - DT reported that there were 10 on the waiting list and that two plot was due to become vacant. An inspection had recently been carried out by members of the Sub-Committee.

**Thompson Lane** – LM reported that there was 12 on the waiting list for Thompson Lane with no available plots. A couple of plots were not being cultivated and she would have to address this. Rats were also an issue.

The Committee noted that there seemed to be a higher turnover than in previous years. It was agreed that it would be helpful to produce brief guidance to cultivation for new plot holders (**Action LM**)

**Treasurer** CD Circulated a report. There was a discussion about the hut income. Prices are cheaper at B and M. The value of running the shop if it couldn't make money was questioned. A review will be carried out at the end of the year. (**Action CD**). CD asked if the Society should have an asset register and the need for this was agreed. (**Action CD**). CD to provide more detail of the show expenses. (**Action CD**).

**Secretary** – no report

**Health and Safety** – IH to update the Risk Assessment (**Action IH**)

**Show Secretary** – Everything is in hand for the show. JT asked that as many committee members as possible tried to attend the show. LM to sell honey. Poppy heads will be sold at the show. Tables are organised. The Schedule looks good.

## **6. Proposed Bridgewater trip – see attached note**

SW referred to the note that she had circulated. It was agreed that the Society would postpone the trip until next year and offer it at a subsidised price of £10 per head (JT suggested £15 for non members). SW to send out an e-mail to establish the level of interest. It was also suggested that a poster be displayed at the show. SW to provide information to RW who will produce a poster. (**Action SW and RW**)

## **7. Role of Sub-Committees**

It was noted that the sub-committees had taken weight off the Allotment Officers. Its level of authority was discussed.

JT referred to the agreement with the Town Council and the need for this to be agreed each year. Going forward he suggested that 5 years would be a better timescale. The Town Council have not been coming to our meetings and JT will raise both of these matters with them. (**Action JT**)

## **8. Rats on a Charlestown Smallholder Plot**

Unfortunately, there are rat runs under some old huts and in a compost heap.

JT advised that he had spoken to Mark from the Town Council who had taken advice from Bradford Council and the measures we were implementing would be what they would recommend:

- Using plastic containers with poison in
- Traps

In addition, rats will be shot but this is time consuming.

It is important to have appropriate storage for food. Unfortunately, some plot holders are more careful than others. The difficulty of taken disciplinary action on smallholder plots was discussed. Any livestock needs to be found a new home which can be an issue. However, it was agreed that we had a duty to other smallholders.

As noted earlier a working group will be set up (**Action JT**)

## **9. Rule Changes**

SW asked the Committee to consider whether it was changing the rule too frequently as there was some disquiet amongst members. Should changes be consulted upon ? The Committee didn't think that it had made significant changes but rather minor tweaks to ensure better running of the sites.

## **10. Conservatory Thompson Lane**

Mike has made a start on work.

## **11. AOB**

The need to send an improvement letter to a Charlestown plot holder was discussed. JT advised that he would speak to the plot holder. (**Action JT**)

**12 Date of next meeting 7:00 Monday September 12th.**