

**Baildon Horticultural Society**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2022**  
**Baildon Golf Club**

**PRESENT** – John Turner (JT), Dawn Tinsley (DT), Charlotte Martin (CM), Robin Weedon (RW), Peter Linley (PL), Sue Wheatley (SW), Ian Helyar (IH), Susan Kean (SK), Catherine Dunne (CD), Richard Nottidge (RN)

**1.Apologies for absence:** Louise Mallinson (LM)

**2 Chair’s opening remarks**

JT advised RW that he couldn’t see the Constitution on the website (**Action RW**). He noted that the Risk Assessment needed updating (**Action IH**). He expressed concern about attendance at the open garden event and asked that it be added to the Agenda for the January/February meeting (**Action SW**).

**3 Actions from previous meeting:**

- Photo of SK outstanding (**Action RW and SK**)
- Hoyle Court Article outstanding (**Action RW**)
- CD confirmed that she had signed the Society up for affiliated memberships ( apart from the Chrysanthemum Society as she couldn’t get hold of them. Action completed. Under the RHS affiliation the Society has 2 cards which gives a 30% discount on entrance plus one annual pass for up to 55. RW will update website. CD to forward link (**Action CD and RW**). SW to look into organising a trip (maybe in August) (**Action SW**). JT to provide SW with Eldwick Contact (**Action JT**)
- Open gardens – actions completed.
- Rule update re rats/firearms – action completed
- Investigate App re surplus produce. SK sent e-mail with details. Also members have been asked to use the swap bench for surplus. Action completed.
- Use of weedkiller on communal areas - rule change – action still outstanding (**Action SW**)

**4 Member’s Issues** – Some Society members are not aware that we have Site Committees, which are Sub-Committees of the main Committee under the Constitution. Agreed to publicise these on the Charlestown notice board; to include details of who is on the Sub-Committee with their plot numbers. (**Action DT??**). SK advised that Thompson Lane needed a better notice board. JT agreed to apply to the Town Council for a grant for a notice board as they provided a grant for the Charlestown site ( **Action JT**)

**5 Reports:**

**Allotment Officers:**

**Charlestown** - CM reported that there were now 15 on the waiting list and that two plot was due to become vacant. JT advised that he had been in contact with the Town Council about the need to cut the outside hedge.

**Thompson Lane** – LM in her absence had circulated a report, advising that there was 10 on the waiting list for Thompson Lane with no available plots.

**Treasurer** CD Circulated a report showing a healthy balance although it was noted that it included sponsorship monies for the show. CD to investigate the use of an external auditor (**Action CD**).

**Secretary** – SW advised that, at the request of JT, she had tried to set up a group e-mail but wasn't convinced that it had worked. It was agreed that RW would set one up using our webmail provider. (**Action RW**).

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

**Show Secretary** – RW reported that the Schedule was being printed but that due to rising costs the paper choice had been changed. Printing cost is £350.

## **6. Deferred Rule Change – see attached note**

In the first paragraph the spelling of discretion needs to be corrected.

SW expressed concern about the inclusion of the line about exceptional circumstances. SW referred to the note provided by LM in which she suggested that a household should have no more than one allotment garden plot. A vote was taken on the first paragraph to include this change and was carried. The changes to the two other paragraphs were carried unanimously. (**Action – SW to update the rules and circulate**).

## **7. Open Gardens**

To be discussed January/February in more detail.

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

It was reported that it looked like a smallholder plot was becoming vacant which had a rat problem. The plot contained old sheds, most probably infected with rat urine and adjoined a residential property. JT advised, that in his view, the best way to deal with the problem would be to burn the shed in situ. JT advised that he had contacted the Town Council and was waiting for a response. The Committee spent some time discussing the situation, including the various methods of rat control. It was agreed that it was important to ensure that the burning of the sheds wasn't a problem for the residential property and didn't result in the rats going into the garden of the residential property. IH suggested that the Society should consider using an external contractor to do the work with the appropriate liability insurance. The Committee were advised that Steve had experience dealing with rats. JT was concerned about

the cost of an external contractor and timescales as the problem needed to be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

It was agreed that in addition to the Town Council advice would be sought from the pest control department at Bradford Council. (**Action JT**).

The possibility of trying to prevent similar issues in the future was discussed and it was suggested that Guidelines be produced for Smallholder plots. ( **Action JT**)

## **10. AOB**

None

**11 Date of next meeting 7:00 Monday August 8th.**

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