

Baildon Horticultural Society
Minutes of the Meeting dated 12 September 2022
Baildon Golf Club

PRESENT - Dawn Tinsley (DT), Charlotte Martin (CM), Robin Weedon (RW), Louise Mallinson (LM), Peter Linley (PL), Jan Studzinski (JS), Susan Kean (SK), Richard Nottidge (RN)

1 Apologies for absence: Sue Wheatley, Ian Helyar, Mike Webster, John Turner, Catherine Dunne

2 Chairs opening remarks

LM chaired the meeting in JT's absence. JT asked that congratulations be passed on to all involved for a very successful show.

3 Actions from previous meeting:

- Hoyle Court Article (RW) – defer until next meeting
- Use of Weedkiller on communal areas rule change (SW) – discuss at next meeting
- Update Risk Assessment (IH) – for next meeting
- Add Open Gardens to January/February Agenda (SW)

- Working Group for Smallholder Plots (JT) – JT had asked some of the smallholders but they were not interested in being involved in a working party but were keen to have guidelines (noted that CM and Jon Roughton had not been asked). JT to do Guidelines and put the working group on hold. JT had sent a first draft of the Guidelines (see attached).

- Cultivation Guide for New Plot Holders (LM) – LM had drafted a short note to be sent to people coming to the top of the waiting list to forewarn them of the work and time involved in taking on a plot (see attached note). To forward to CM and to send to potential new plot holders. **(Action LM)**

- Financial Review of Shop at end of the year (CD) – for next meeting
- Asset Register (CD)
- More detail of show expenses to be provided (CD)
- Notice for Show about proposed Bridgewater Trip (SW,RW) – completed

- Attendance of Town Council at our meetings (JT) – JT had been unable to contact the Town Council due to their recent move to new premises and because they were pre-occupied with the recent sad news about Queen Elizabeth II.

- Issue with the condition of a Charlestown Plot – (JT to speak to plot holder) JT had suggested that if there were any difficult terminations to deal with that the sub-committees could bring the case to the full committee so that advice could be offered and processes followed and termination be ratified by full committee.

4 MEMBERS' ISSUES – none

5 REPORTS

Allotment Officers

- Thompson Lane – LM reported 12 on the waiting list. Two have recently become available.
- Charlestown – CM reported 10 on the waiting list. One plot will be coming available soon.

Treasurer – CD had sent a report to the committee. (*See attached*).

Secretary - none

Health and Safety

IH had sent the following email: *"I have done the assessment and just need to update the document.*

I'm pleased to say that the allotment officers have been doing a great job so I'm very happy with the overall position.

The one big issue that remains is the rat problem but hopefully the smallholders group and a process of testing and monitoring new plot holders will see this improve.

My view is that for serious infestations we should get outside specialist assistance.

The other on going issue is asbestos which is often hidden away so we need to be vigilant if we see damaged panels."

The problem of rats was discussed and it was agreed that dead rats should be incinerated, buried or disposed of appropriately.

Show Secretary

DT reported a very successful show with attendance up on last year (See attached report). The café did very well which was thought to be due to opening half an hour earlier. There was not as much in the baking section and preserves were down.

6 RESPONSE TO EMAIL CIRCULATED ABOUT BRIDGEWATER TRIP

SW had received 17 replies from people who wanted to travel by coach. Most of the committee would also be interested - but had not yet replied – it was agreed that it should go ahead next year – as there would most likely be more interest nearer the time.

7 FOLLOW UP FROM LETTER OF COMPLAINT FROM FORMER CHARLESTOWN PLOT HOLDER

LM read out the letter of complaint. After discussion it was felt unlikely that the former plot holder would appeal against his eviction so the letter should be filed away and no further action taken. However the neglected plot was still a serious concern and after discussion it was agreed we should look into getting in a professional company to clear it, along with the asbestos.

8 FEEDBACK FROM SHOW AND GRANT FOR TABLES

DT explained that it was always a problem getting the tables to and from the school. As 75 tables are needed for the show (and we only have 44 left of the 67 we used to have) it was agreed that JT should apply for a grant to buy some more tables and they could be stored at Charlestown. It was noted that they cost £80 each.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Potato Order – LM to order potatoes from Acorn as soon as possible. Thompson Lane would be ordering 1 Arran Pilot, 2 Charlotte, 1 Desiree and 1 Maris Piper. Agreed that no onions would be ordered as they were disappointing last year. PL to order for Charlestown (**Action LM/PL**)

Shops – LM reminded those present that stocktaking would be needed to be done in October. DT and LM to send out an email to plot holders/members asking if there was anything they would like to be stocked for next season. (Action **LM/DT**) SK agreed to start working in the TL shop with a view to taking over after a handover period but that MW would still do the ordering. (**Action LM/SK**)

Books – SK to trial a gardening library/book sale at TL hut. To be stored in the hut until the communal greenhouse is erected. (**Action SK**).

Water Butts – SK suggested having a mandatory rule to have a water butt if you have a shed or greenhouse but it was felt to be unworkable.

Defibrillator – Having a defibrillator on each site was discussed. CM pointed out that they do not require mains electricity as they now have powerful batteries. Also SK suggested us all doing a first aid course. To be discussed at next meeting.

10 NEXT MEETING

7pm Monday 10 October at Baildon Golf Club

Future meetings after clocks go back to be via Zoom apart from AGM

(Do we need to book the Golf Club for the AGM in December?)

Note for Potential New Allotment Plot Holders for people coming to the top of Waiting List

Taking on an allotment plot is quite an undertaking and, while it can be very rewarding, it can also be very time consuming.

Before you decide to take one on you should bear in mind the following points:

- The plot you take on could be in a poor state and overgrown if the previous tenant has neglected it so you will need to set time aside to bring it back into cultivation and be prepared for hard physical work and several trips to the tip.
- Once the plot has been dug over and planted out you will need to spend at least a few hours a week, preferably little and often, in keeping the weeds down and in general maintenance. Also during dry spells you will need to water your crops daily.
- All allotment sites are a haven for pests - eg pigeons, squirrels, rodents etc - which are attracted to the produce so you will need to protect your crops by covering with netting or fleece.

I attach our handbook which may be helpful for you to read before you make a decision about taking on a plot.

Baildon Horticultural Society

Guidelines for Smallholder Plot Holders

First Draft

This document is to be issued to all Members who intend to keep Livestock (poultry and animals) on their plots and must be read in conjunction with 'The Rules of the Society' particularly Appendix One. It should be noted that Baildon Town Council are the Landlords and through the Environmental Committee have charge of the Allotments at Charlestown and Thompson Lane. Bradford Council have responsibility for Environmental and Public Health matters across the district.

Taking the Tenancy of a Smallholder Plot carries important responsibilities in regards to the welfare and safety of livestock and fellow ploholders. This document details guidelines which BHS expects Tenants to fulfil, they are provided with the intention of making your tenancy enjoyable and rewarding for yourself, your stock and your close neighbours.

The Guidelines

1. The Plot

A Smallholder Plot has been designated as such for the keeping of poultry and animals. The number and type of animals is dependent on the size and nature of the plot and the species you wish to keep, the plot size dictates the number appropriate for your plot. You should be aware that overstocking leading to deterioration of the ground will not be tolerated and stock must be reduced to the appropriate level. The quantity and composition of your stock should be discussed with experienced smallholders or the Site Committee if you are not sure. Understocking is always better for beginners

2. Fencing.

All stock should be confined to your plot, the fencing should be of sufficient height and strength to ensure this. It should also keep predators out which ideally means that it cannot be tunnelled under, wire fencing should reach for at least 6 inches or 15cms underground. Old corrugated roofing is ideal as a lower base. It is advisable for Smallholder plots to be locked, it is good practice to leave a spare key with a trusted neighbour or a Committee member in case of emergency.

3. Sheds

Sheds should be of a sufficient size to give stock the room to move around freely when confined. Poultry need perches, dropping boards, nest boxes and appropriate food and water containers. The shed should be waterproof and vermin proof and be checked regularly for signs of 'rat incursion' often droppings are the first sign.

The use of partially open indoor runs linked to a shed are popular and useful when the weather is particularly bad in allowing the stock to exercise without being soaked. Again, vigilance against vermin is important therefore do not put feed in the indoor runs.

4. Vermin (rats and mice)

These are the bane of a poultry keeper's life. We cannot totally eliminate rats and mice but can only hope to control them. Mice are an irritant and tend to be ousted by rats, however in new sheds the mice tend to come first before their bigger, bullying cousins take over. To control rats the first objective is to make sure the food for stock is kept in rat proof containers the old metal dustbins are ideal, they will chew through plastic bins to get at poultry and rabbit food stores. Metal containers are the only answer. Secondly only put out into feeders enough food for one day you should be able to judge how much food your stock eats in a day so only put that out and try to do so in a morning.

Rats are nocturnal so will fill up at night using you feeders not scatter food outside again particularly in the evening, use feeders only.

If you notice rat droppings or see rats in your plot there are several ways to combat them but first do tell fellow ploholders who can give advice a or a Committee member.

- Traps, the best by far are 'Fenn Traps' all feed merchants sell them, make sure they are set safely away from your stock, in your feed store shed is ideal
- Poison; this is available from the Sales Hut ,you must use the approved boxes for setting the poison in.
- Shooting is only allowed in exceptional circumstances and only by authorised ploholders, you should ask for their help through the Committee.
- Terriers, particularly 'Jack Russel's' have been shown to deter rats from plots as do the resident cats.

Show Income

	2021	2022
CAFE	£121.40	£292.20
STALL FEES	£35.00	N/A
CAKES	£195.90	£136.80
TOMBOLA	£138.00	£109.50
EXHIBIT ENTRANCE FEES	£182.75	£135.80
DOOR	£262.15	£369.30
RAFFLE	£116.00	£151.59
EXHIBIT DONATIONS	£145.67	£55.22
SPONSORSHIP	£1,345.00	£1,215.00
BOOK STALL	N/A	£27.72
SEED STALL	N/A	£15.50
TOTAL	£ 2,541.87	£ 2,508.63
Profit	£1,048.87	£830.63

Show Expenditure

CASH PRIZES	£743.00	£768.00
RENT	£370	£370?
SCHEDULE PRINTING	£270	£360
JUDGES FEES	£110	£110
CREW TSHIRTS		£30
CERTIFICATES		£40
Total	£1,493.00	£1,678.00

2021

Number of exhibits - 599

ENTRIES	No	of
	Entrants	
MEMBERS VEGETABLE	115	
OPEN VEGETABLE	99	
MEMBERS FLOWERS	36	
OPEN FLOWERS	59	
NOVICE	25	
TOMATO class A	15	
TOMATO class B	4	
TOMATO class C	4	
CHILDRENS 5 to 8	4	
CHILDRENS 9 to 12	3	
MISCELLANIOUS	38	
BAKING	43	
PRESERVES	63	
HANDICRAFT	84	
FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS	7	

2022

Number of exhibits – 542

ENTRIES	No of Entrants
MEMBERS VEGETABLE	122
OPEN VEGETABLE	111
MEMBERS FLOWERS	48
OPEN FLOWERS	63
NOVICE	34
TOMATO class A	21
TOMATO class B	12
TOMATO class C	7
CHILDRENS 5 to 8	6
CHILDRENS 9 to 12	3
MISCELLANIOUS	26
MISC EGGS	12
BAKING	28
PRESERVES	33
HANDICRAFT	93
FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS	13