

Baildon Horticultural Society
Minutes of the Meeting dated 14 November 2022
Zoom

Present – John Turner (JT), Dawn Tinsley (DT), Charlotte Martin (CM), Louise Mallinson (LM), Peter Linley (PL), Richard Nottidge (RN), Sue Wheatley (SW), Ian Helyar (IH)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Catherine Dunne, Robin Weedon, Jan Studzinski, Susan Kean (who unfortunately couldn't get zoom to work)

2. Chairs opening remarks

JT highlighted concerns regarding the neglect of ducks and geese on plot 41. The Charlestown Site Sub-Committee have been monitoring the plot for a while and the situation has deteriorated with the recent lockdown requirements for avian flu. The birds are not being fed and watered daily. The plot holder has been made aware of concerns.

JT referred to the Smallholder Guidelines that had been presented to the Committee recently. He proposed that the Committee resolve to adopt the Guidelines with the following additional sentence (at the end of the second paragraph):

Neglect of livestock which endangers the life of the animal will result in termination of tenancy. C. F Rule 6.

The Committee voted unanimously to accept the Guidelines with the addition.

JT then asked the Committee to vote on the following:

The Committee authorises the termination of the tenancy of plot 41 due to the neglect of the poultry in contravention of rule 6.

Before the Committee voted there was a discussion regarding what might happen to the birds. IH asked whether a veterinary check was needed. He was assured by CM that the problem had been developing slowly for a few months and that the birds were undernourished not diseased. Members of the Site Sub-Committee had been feeding them but now unfortunately the gates to the plot were locked. JT emphasised that the Committee had the right to enter a plot.

The Committee voted unanimously to terminate the tenancy.

JT advised that he would try to ring and also email the plot holder. (**Action JT**)

3. Actions from previous meeting

- Hoyle Court Article (**Action RW**)
- Rule change - weed killer use on communal areas (**Action SW**)
- put open gardens on Jan/Feb Agenda (**Action SW**)
- review of shop (**Action CD**)
- Asset register (**Action CD**)
- A grant of £475 has been provided for tables for the show.
- Amend risk assessment. JT not done this (**Action IH and JT**)
- agreed that whether a person could enter multiple items in a show class was a matter for the Show Committee
- JT noted that PL, CD and JS would be stepping down from the Committee. A possible replacement Treasurer had been put forward but she wanted to meet with the existing Treasurer to see how much work the role required. JT expressed concern regarding the high turnover of Treasurers and wondered whether the role might be too onerous.

4. Member's issues

None

5. Reports

CM advised that at Charlestown there is one vacant plot with 12 on the waiting list and no one on the smallholder waiting list.

LM advised that at Thompson Lane there were 13 on the waiting list and 2 or possibly 3 plots coming up. Unfortunately work on the conservatory has been progressing slowly as Mike has a bad back.

No reports from the Secretary, Health and Safety Officer and Show Secretary.

6. Defibrillator

JT advised that he had spoken to the Town Council and had been put in touch with a first responder who he would be meeting this week. They cost around £1000. The need for fundraising and possible siting would need to be considered. (**Action JT**)

7. Disabled Plot and Large Hut

JT advised that the plot holder wanted to terminate her tenancy, and sell the large building to the Society for £1,500. He advised that this represented a good deal for the Society as he thought that the building had cost around £8,000 to construct. There is a large settee and chair in the building and therefore JT has allowed £100 for their disposal and recommended that the plot holder be offered £1400. In his view, if the Society didn't pay for the building, the option would be withdrawn by the plot holder. He suggested that the building could usefully be used by the Society for educational purposes. Ideally a small working group would be needed. He had mentioned the situation to the Town Council and they might consider making a grant available to the Society.

LM thought it was a good idea.

PL advised that there was disquiet and rumours going around about the proposal. It was quite a lot of money and he suggested that it be put to the AGM for wider discussion.

The plot holder had entered into an agreement with the Society and the Town Council and JT read the wording of this out. It was noted that there is nothing in the agreement which says the Society had to remunerate the plot holder on her departure.

JT was firmly of the opinion that if we didn't purchase the building now we wouldn't get another chance.

IH asked whether in the light of the muttering a decision should be delayed until the AGM. This was discussed by the Committee. PL was very concerned that paying for the building would set a dangerous precedent. SW noted that it was a lot of money. JT however stressed that the Committee had been elected to make decisions and shouldn't delay.

A vote was taken to see whether the Committee was in favour of purchasing the building for £1400. 7 were in favour, 1 against and there was 1 abstention.

JT to make the necessary arrangements (**Action JT**)

8. AGM

IH to check whether the new caterer at the golf club will do pie and peas. If not he proposed that the society buy quiche and sausage rolls etc for a buffet (**Action IH**).

Publicity for the AGM and the need to send out emails and put up posters was discussed.

JT will do Chair's report(**Action JT**).

SW to do report for the endorsement of rule changes (**Action SW**)

It was agreed to keep rents at the same level.

DT asked if we paid rent to the Town Council. JT explained that when Bradford Council had handed over the allotments to the Town Council it was on the basis that

the rent would be £4,000 a year. However, they gave the Town Council £3,000 a year and continue to do so. This is why we only pay £1,000 a year to the Town Council.

9.AOB

None

10. Date of Next Meeting

AGM - 7:00 Monday 12 December at Baildon Golf Club