

**Baildon Horticultural Society**  
**Minutes of the Meeting on 12 June 2023**  
**Baildon Golf Club**

**Present** – Louise Mallinson (LM), Jon Roughton (JR), Dawn Tinsley (DT), Sue Wheatley (SW), Louise Davies (LD), Dale Holgate (DH), Robin Weedon (RW), Richard Nottidge (RN), Ian Helyar (IH), Mike Webster (MW)

**1. Apologies for absence:** Susan Kean (SK), Charlotte Martin (CM),

**2. Chairs opening remarks**

LM explained that she and JR had agreed that as joint Chairs she would deal with Thompson Lane items and Jon with Charlestown items and they would both deal with items that were not site specific.

LM thanked SW for arranging the Bridgewater trip.

**3. Actions from previous meetings**

- Hole has had a temporary repair.
- DH advised that he hadn't received a written structural report about the wall yet and would chase. ( **Action DH**)
- DH will continue to keep an eye on the availability of scrapings.
- RW has updated our website with details of the Eldwick and Gilstead talks. The next ones are not until September and October. SW and DT will try and remember to send an e-mail round at this time.
- Only a small section of hedge is to be removed at Thompson Lane. MW has spoken to Joe Kean at the Town Council to explain. The TC are now happy. Shrubs will be planted for birds and bees over the winter period. The tenant is happy to pay for the shrubs. LM advised that she had obtained 2 quotes for the Town Council who are to pay for the fence. The Committee agreed they were happy for the section of hedge to be removed. Work to be carried out in October so not to affect nesting birds. LM to write to the Clerk ( **Action LM**)
- JT had been in touch with Sandals School about the tables. No agreement has been made regarding replacement of broken tables. DT to speak to Headteacher. ( **Action DT**)
- RHS Bridgewater reminder had been circulated

#### 4. Member's issues

There is a very overgrown plot at Charlestown adjacent to the first track from the car park. The Committee discussed the situation and agreed that a letter needed to be sent.

#### 5. Reports

Allotment Officers:-

At Charlestown there are around 9 on the waiting list.

LM advised that at Thompson Lane there were 10 on the waiting list. MW noted that the plots were in a good condition.

The Committee discussed the watering situation. Some plot holders were using hose pipes for more than 20 minutes. LM to do a reminder that they shouldn't be using a hose pipe for more than 20 minutes so that everyone has a fair access to water. SW asked that she also ask plot holder to make sure the water tanks were full before attaching their hoses so those using watering cans could have access to water as well.

The problem with some of the taps was also discussed. Some are easily damaged if a plot holder isn't careful. This to also be addressed in the note. DT will also produce laminated notices to be displayed at the taps. ( **Action LM and DT**)

Treasurer – advised that there was the following in our accounts:

Current - £8,906.16

Savings - £8,284.85

She reported that she hadn't paid the invoice for the Bridgewater coach yet and wondered whether we should seek a discount from them because we had had to refund quite a few people because the coach broke down. This was discussed but it was agreed that this had been an unfortunate incident and that the company had its costs which it needed to cover.

Secretary – Nothing to report

Health and Safety Officer- Nothing to Report.

Show Secretary – referred to the e-mail that had been circulated. A total of £1,735 has been raised.

The need for a fire extinguisher for the Thompson Lane hut was discussed. Dale advised that he might have one available. It was noted that they would need to be checked regularly. The need for any training in their usage was also discussed. **(Action DH)**

## **6.National Allotment Open Day**

The proposal would be to open the Thompson Lane site on 13 August. LM to e-mail tenants to see if they are happy for it to be open. ( **Action LM**) It was suggested that a map could be put together showing tenants who would be happy to be available and talk to visitors.**(Action SK)**

## **7.Baildon Glen School**

This is the school adjacent to Thompson Lane. RN reported that it now has a new Headteacher who is keen to get involved with the allotments. The first thing might be to have a school trip to visit the allotments. RN to contact the school **(Action RN)**

## **8. Ed Shed**

It was noted that John Turner had obtained grants from the Town Council and Bradford Council ( the Mechanical Institute Grant) to refurbish the building.

Unfortunately, the more that work that has been carried out on the site the more issues have been found.

The Committee concluded that the building could not be made suitable for use. It is small and hasn't got a toilet. There are questions regarding its safety. The disabled ramp is probably not fit for purpose. The greenhouse is unsafe. No one has come forward with an interest to manage the building.

Current get togethers for the Society have been at the existing huts and it was agreed that this worked well and that any investment really needed to be towards these buildings.

The Treasurer hasn't received the Mechanical Institute grant yet. Bradford Council to be contacted to discuss the best way forward. ( **Action DT**)

## **9. Financial Arrangements with Town Council**

John Turner, the previous Chair reported to the last meeting that Bradford Council paid Baildon Town Council £3,000 a year to manage the allotments. The Society pays £995 in rent to Baildon Town Council.

The Town Council has provided grants in the past to the Society and helped with a number of specific items.

Now that John Turner had resigned as Chair it was felt that the Committee, as a whole, needed a better understanding of how the relationship, which to date has been positive, worked.

It was noted that the Society had entered into an annual management agreement with the Town Council in 2019. SW reported that she thought John Turner, had been looking to change this to a 5 year agreement but wasn't sure if this had been done and would check her records. (**Action SW**)

Some financial information has been sought from the Town Council to try and understand how it uses the £3000 it receives. The Treasurer is looking at this. (**Action LD**)

The Committee agreed that it was important to continue the good working relationship with the Town Council.

It also agreed that we should, once we had a written report for the structural work required to the wall, highlight that we might well need to seek a significant contribution from them towards this work.

### **10.AOB**

SK had circulated a text message with details of a skylark grant of £490 for first aid training. This was discussed. It was agreed that this would be tested first at Thompson Lane. (**Action SK**)

SW suggested that the Committee consider a trip to Harlow Carr as a number of them were members of the RHS ( SW, LM, RW) which gave entry for themselves and a guest. (**Action SW**)

11. Date of Next Meeting 7:00 Monday 10 July at Baildon Golf Club