

Baildon Horticultural Society
Minutes of the Meeting on 9 October 2023
The Malt Shovel

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

1. Apologies for absence: Susan Kean (SK), Mike Webster (MW)

2. Chairs opening remarks

The Chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting

3. Actions from previous meetings

- JR and SW outlined the outcome of the meeting with the Town Council. They highlighted that the Town Council had pointed out that it was an internal not an external boundary and if we wanted to ask the Town Council for funding a report would need to be submitted by the end of this month for consideration at the November meeting of the Town Council and there was no guarantee that funding would be forthcoming . Two written quotes would be required together with evidence that it would be a permanent solution to the problem. JR advised that a plowholder had provided a quote of around £3,000. The Committee discussed the situation and concluded that because there was no guarantee of receiving funding from the Town Council and because it was now Autumn it would be better for the Society to fund the wall. A vote was taken which was unanimous. (**Action JR??**)
- SW advised that she had chased the Highway Authority for a response to the letter sent to them. It was agreed that she should write another letter to them saying that if we heard nothing within 2 weeks then we would assume that there wasn't an issue (**Action SW**)
- The Town Council doesn't want as much of the front hedge at Thompson Lane to be removed. A revised quote is required for this. A report will be taken to the November meeting of the Town Council (**Action LM**). LM took the opportunity to show the Town Clerk the rear hedge. The Clerk suggested that any work would need to be done in stages.
- Purchase more tables for the show (**Action DT**)

- All members apart from SW and IH confirmed that they were happy to remain on the Committee. SW and IH confirmed that they would still be happy to help out when necessary.

4. Member's issues

It was reported that Peter Linley had died over the weekend. The Committee expressed sadness about this and noted that he had been Chair of the Society for a number of years.

5. Reports

Allotment Officers:-

CM advised that at Charlestown there were 7 on the waiting list (with 2 of the names from households that already had one plot).

LM advised that at Thompson Lane there were 11 on the waiting list.

There was a general discussion about the state of the plots and concern expressed that new people were taking on plots and doing very little. The probationary period had already been reduced to 6 months and it was questioned whether anything else could be done.

Treasurer – had previously circulated a report. She advised that 2 grants had been received:

£2,000 from Bradford Council

£500 from Shipley Area Committee ??

In addition, £1,500 can be drawn upon from Baildon Town Council for the alternative "Ed Shed"

Current - £11,205.58

Savings - £8,388.15

She asked DT and LM to clarify petty cash and stock for the end of October figures.
(**Action DT, LM**)

Secretary – Nothing to report

Health and Safety Officer- Nothing to Report.

Show Secretary – Nothing to report

6. Management Agreement

The Town Council had given JR and SW an unsigned copy of the Management Agreement at their site meeting to look at the retaining wall. The main change was from a yearly to a 5 year agreement. The previous chair had been instrumental in drafting this.

The Committee spent some time discussing this and wondered :

- Where the original agreement had come from
- How could a years notice be given if the Society folded
- 5 years was a long time and difficult to predict what might happen
- Was it appropriate for the Town Council just to be responsible for external boundaries as they received £3,000 a year to manage the allotments

Reference was made to alternative arrangements for allotments (ie Eldwick and Esholt manage allotments on behalf of Bradford Council) and the help that the National Allotment Association can provide (The cost of being a member of this Association is £3 per Society member).

It was concluded that a meeting should be arranged with the Town Council to discuss. JR, LM, DT and CM interested in attending a meeting . (**Action SW to arrange**)

7. Charlestown Cockerels

JR reported that he had met with an Environmental Officer of Bradford Council and had explained that 7 smallholder plots have cockerels and highlighted the 8am -8PM rule that had come from Bradford Council. The complaint received relates to daytime noise. JR provided plot holders postal addresses to the Officer. The Officer is to visit the complainant.

8. Sewage Leak Resolution

The sewage leak from adjoining land has been addressed.

9 Rear Hedge at Thompson Lane

Discussed under actions

10. First Aid Training Feedback

RN reported that this had gone well and 12 plot holders at Thompson Lane had been trained and the training was valid for 3 years.

11.Revised Constitution

SW reported that she had spotted that the revised constitution that had been drafted in February 2022 hadn't been mentioned at the 2022 AGM and therefore hadn't been approved. She drew attention to the differences between this document and the current Constitution. It was agreed not to make any changes to the current constitution.

12. AGM Preparation

IH advised that he had spoken to the golf club which has confirmed that it can provide Pie and Peas for the AGM. Usually between 30-40 attend.

E-mail to be sent to Society members advising them about the AGM and seeking volunteers for the Committee. (**Action LM**)

The need to increase rents was discussed. This will be considered further at the November meeting. Figures showing income and costs will be required. (**Action LD**)

13. AOB

RW to look into the best way of storing paperwork online as the rush files are not working. (**Action RW**)

14. Date of Next Meeting 7:00 Monday 13 November at The Malt Shovel