

Allotment Advisory Group Meeting minutes

Purpose of meeting	- To discuss progress and issues affecting the allotments.
Date	- 15 th July 2024
Attendees	- Mark Burgess (MB), Pauline Butcher (PB), Caroline Underwood (CU), Debbie Leighton (DL)
Absent	- None
Apologies	- None

PREVIOUS OPEN ACTIONS FROM EARLIER MEETINGS

No	Minute	Action	Owner	Due date
A	Marker Posts. A number of the plot marker posts are rotten and have fallen over and need replacing.	Put a request to Ramune to ask the handmen to replace the broken marker posts and to check all posts are in good order.	MB	CLOSED
Update – New marker posts have been erected where the old post had fallen over or was loose. We still have a stock of the replacement posts which we will use as and when one of the old posts fail. - CLOSED				
B	Community Plot Opening the Community Plot to a wider audience and volunteers.	Contact has been made with the Social Prescribers. We are waiting on them to suggest a date for the two groups to meet and discuss how we can work together.	MB	Next Meeting
Update – We will wait until end August for a response. If no response is forthcoming we will try to make contact again.				
C	Hedgehog Boxes We now have wood available for the hedgehog boxes.	It was suggested that we contact a “men’s club” to see if they would be happy to build the boxes for us if we supply the material. There is a men’s club in Brampton. Caroline to send contact details.	CU	Next newsletter
Update – We have been given the name of Bramshed as the group who maybe able to help us with the hedgehog boxes. We will try to contact them. Failing that, we will contact the Brampton Parish Council to see if they can provide the contact details.				
D	Keeping Animals at the Allotments When we put out a suspension notice requesting that animals are not to be kept on the Allotments, we agreed that the suspension would be reviewed at our meetings.	It was agreed to continue the suspension and review at our next meeting.	MB	Next meeting
Update – Steve has been told he can reinstate the chickens if he wants to. However, Steve is to have surgery on his knee over the summer and has informed us that he will not be able to attend his plot until he is fully recovered. We have also heard from his neighbouring plot that Steve intends to give the plots up at the end of this year. I have written to Steve for clarification.				
E	Review of the Rules and Regs.	The annual review of our Rules and Regulations is due. This year we need to focus on animal management at the allotments and ensure the Rules and Regulations capture how we expect animals to be cared for. Mark to publish the current Rules and Regulations prior to the next meeting for all to review and make comment.	MB	CLOSED
Update – This is on the agenda for our next meeting.				

NEW ACTIONS FROM 15th JULY 2024 MEETING

No	Minute	Action	Owner	Due date
1	School Plot. The Buckden Primary School plot is in need of attention again as it is rapidly becoming overgrown with weeds.	Write to Ramune and request the handymen strim the pathways on the school plot as part of their grass cutting responsibilities. Once we have agreement from Ramune we will contact the school to let them know what has been agreed and alert them to the state of their plot and the need to maintain it. We will allow them the summer school break to see if a difference is made. If not then we will need to sit down with the school and discuss the issue and see what can be done.	MB CU ALL	ASAP Once agreement made End August
2	Allotment Advisory Group members. It was agreed that the group size should remain as five, but that we should look to create support groups that we can call upon to help out as and when required. The confirmation of the Allotment Advisory Group chairperson was agreed and Mark Burgess will continue in this position. Caroline, Pauline and Deborah were also confirmed as members for the group going forward. It was agreed that a replacement for Rosemary Surridge should be found.	Write out to all members to inform them of the Advisory Group Members and requesting expressions of interest from Plot Holders who feel they would like to join the team.	MB	End July
3	Soil Improver. Martin Hassel, from Plot 14a, said he felt he could obtain free soil improver for the allotment. So far nothing has been forthcoming. However, Soil Improver is available free of charge from the Council Recycling Centres but needs to be collected.	Email Martin Hassel to see if he has managed to organise a delivery for us. If this is no longer available, look to arrange a team of volunteers to collect some from the Recycling Centres.	MB MB	End July End August
4	The Repair Café. We were made aware of the Parish Councils intention to start up a Repair Café. It was felt that this could also be a useful support group for Allotment Plot Holders who may well enjoy participating.	Provide details of the contact for the Repair Café. Email the Plot Holders with details of the group and its intentions to see if any of the Plot Holders would like to participate.	CU MB	End July End July
5	Improving Accessibility to the allotments We are aware that while owing an allotment has significant physical and mental health benefits to everyone, some groups cannot participate in these activities due to accessibility issues. We are keen to ensure the allotments are open to all where practicable.	Contact local builders (Mark Duly) and discuss the proposed ideas and obtain competitive quotation for the work to be done. Upon receipt of the quotations, submit a costed proposal to the Parish Council for their consideration.	MB MB	End July ASAP

	We are therefore planning to add a raised bed area at the front of the allotments, behind the new polytunnel. The raised beds will form a U shape and will be constructed using wooden sleepers and raised to the height that a person in a wheelchair could access them. We also plan to put a pathed pathway and path the area in-between the beds so people in wheelchairs can move about unrestricted.			
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Date of Next Meeting – 2nd September 2024 at 2pm at the allotments or by zoom.