

WOODCOTE ALLOTMENTS FOR THE LABOURING POOR

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Minutes

of the committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 March 2017

Present: Rick Brightman (Chairman), Linda Booth, Nicky Bridge, David Franklin, Susan Maguire, Bert Wilcox

- 1) Apologies for absence - none
- 2) Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 October 2016 were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.
- 3) Matters arising from Minutes of last meeting (not on agenda elsewhere):
 - a) **Wood chippings:** Ken Poyser had been unable to source chippings at that time. BW will ask him if they are now available and if so will arrange a delivery. **BW**
 - b) **Coffee Shop donations:** as there is already an ample supply of rhubarb on many plots, it was agreed to reinstate the donations box on the table at the main gate in the next week or so. LB to send an email to plotholders asking for donations on Fridays, and a committee member will take to Coffee Shop. **All**
 - c) **Article for Correspondent:** This has not yet been written, but an item regarding vacant plots will be inserted by the Parish Clerk in the April issue.
- 4) **Hedgecutting:** 2 sides of the hedge have had the top and outside hard cut back and the contractors have done a good job. Some clearing up was overlooked. The Gap Way hedge was not cut, nor the inside of any of the hedges, so it is hoped this work will be undertaken in the near future. **RB, PC**
- 5) **Wildlife area:** DF reported that he has a few pallets and some other suitable materials, but would like further contributions of pallets (non-stained or painted), air bricks, bamboo canes etc suitable for building a "bug hotel". It was assumed that no permission was needed for installing a bug hotel/wildlife area, and it was decided that the best location is at the edge of the grassed area between the BT hedge and the Village Green where rubbish used to be tipped. An area will be levelled there. LB to send out an email requesting donations and asking donors to contact DF to confirm suitability. **LB**
- 6) **Plant and Seed Swap:** A date was discussed and it was later decided to hold the plant/seed swap on Sunday, 7 May. We will provide coffee/tea and cake. Email to be sent. **LB, All**
- 7) **Skip:** It was agreed to request a 12 cu yd skip for 2 weeks from Wed 12 April. **LB, PC**
- 8) **Newsletter:** It was agreed that the next issue should be a wildlife related one, to encourage plotholders to be more wildlife friendly and include ways in which to encourage wildlife and deter pests without pesticides. This should be after we have created the "bug hotel" so that photos can be included. Other items of interest can be forwarded to plotholders via email in the meantime.
- 9) **Plot Monitoring:** This will be carried out by RB and DF during the first two weeks of May. **RB, DF**
- 10) **Any other business:**
 - a) DF raised the issue of needing more people to come forward for the committee. Perhaps the format of the committee can be discussed with a view to it being on a less formal footing. It was suggested that meetings are only needed 3-4 times a year, and if held soon after a plot monitoring, the results can be discussed and actions, if necessary, decided and advised to the PC. The monitoring could be re-classified as "general site monitoring" rather than plot monitoring, and include checking the condition of grass areas, hedges, tracks etc at the same time. Any ideas should be put forward, to RB or LB, and these can be collated and discussed at the next meeting. **Action All**
- 11) **Next meeting:** 6.00pm on Tuesday 30 May 2017 in the Red Lion.
- 12) The meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

Signed: R Brightman, Chairman

Date: 30 May 2017