



Minutes of (Zoom) Committee Meeting Monday 6th July 2020

1. Present: Chairman; Carole Allen-Morley, Secretary; Denise Audoire, Treasurer; Robert Le Grice, Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinators; Wayne Lawrence, Vincent Coutable, Committee; Bill Chandler, Melissa Doherty, Iain Messenger, Ian Todhunter, Stephen Treglown, Co-opted Members; Diane Kingston, Craig Findlater
2. Apologies – Jenny Fakes
3. Minutes of the last Committee Meeting Monday 2nd March 2020 were agreed
4. Craig Findlater was welcomed to the Meeting as a Co-opted Committee Member
5. A.G.M. – Due to the Coronavirus restrictions, it may not be possible to conduct the voting as normal at the A.G.M. Main subjects requiring voting are election of Committee and rent increase. Suggestions were to have a virtual vote or ballot box or wait until September to decide how we hold the A.G.M. and possibly hold a virtual Special General Meeting before the A.G.M. to enable the voting rules to be changed.
6. Coronavirus – Carole suggested the gates could now be shut again to deter non members from entering the allotments. The majority disagreed with shutting the gates, they will be kept open until further notice.
7. Plots Inspections – Carole reported that not all of the inspections were in. So far 17 have been flagged up. One Member has been phoned and four e-mailed. Two Members are giving up. Member from plots 13 & 14 is giving up now and plot 47A is giving up at the A.G.M. There are no plots available yet to rent out. Some Members have genuinely been shielding. When all the reports are in, Carole will contact the ones flagged up and sort out the genuine ones from others, who have a history of an uncultivated plot.
8. Grounds Maintenance –
 - a. Notice Board – The new notice board has been put up. A smaller one will be purchased for the Knatchbull Close end.
 - b. Carole thanked Vincent for cutting grass around the site and Ian T for trimming around the entrance. Ian T asked if a work party could be set up to cut the hedge along the Southampton road as it was getting overgrown. It was pointed out that it is against the law to cut hedges during the bird nesting season. A work party will not be set up until the season is over.
 - c. Phil Evans the former RAHA Secretary has recently had to surrender his two plots 13 and 14 due to ill health. It was decided that there was no need to create more parking from the plots. Both are overgrown and can be worked on between now and September when Plot 13 can be re-let and plot 14 be used as a Communal Garden for either new Members or other Members unable to keep a large plot up together. Further discussion on a Communal Garden will be on the Agenda for the September Meeting.
9. Plots update / Waiting List – Denise reported that 5 plots had been let since the last Meeting. 130A let to the Member who has 130B the plot now known as 130. Other plots let - 23A / 7 / 90A & 81B. There are no vacant plots to let and 47 on the waiting list.

10. Finances -

- a. Rent Increase – It was agreed at the March Meeting that the rent would increase to £1.40 per rod. Rent is normally paid to Broadlands after rent day.
- b. Income and Expenditure - Robert reported that since March we have received £59 in rent and £30 in deposit forfeits. Payments due are £60 for stone and £330 for the skip. Zurich Insurance has extended our Insurance cover until August as a gesture of goodwill during the Covid – 19 crisis. Renewal should be around £80. Total Deposits held of £4,180 which includes £680 in the savings account and £3,500 in Teachers Building Society. Available funds for spending total £4,742.17.

Vincent asked if he could be reimbursed for fuel for grass cutting around the site at £10 per annum. This was approved. Robert will need a receipt for his records for any expenses

11. Shows – Both Romsey Show and RAHA Summer have been cancelled.

12. CCTV – Robert has been trialling cameras on a budget of around £30 - £40 but found them unsuitable and returned them. He now has another smaller one to try out costing £75. If unsuitable it can be returned. No issues of thieving have been reported recently.

13. A.O.B. –

- a. Road Repairs – Ian T had obtained a quote for resurfacing the road for over £3,000. Robert pointed out that it would be more cost effective to repair, rather than have a total resurfacing of the road. It was agreed that up to £400 would be available to spend on it. Scalping will be used from bags which can be taken from the back of a truck. Wayne will organise a social distancing work party and a notice will be put on the notice boards when a date has been set.
- b. Scrap Metal – Scrap metal can be left in the far corner by the railway line near the railway gate. It was agreed not to display a notice on the board which may encourage non members to fly tip on site.
- c. Signs – Carole shared images of new signage to replace the old ones. The Committee chose the most suitable ones and it was agreed that £150 be available for Carole to buy them.
- d. Radio Solent – Wayne reported that Rebecca from the program is still interested for RAHA to take part in Gardeners Question Time, when things get back to normal.
- e. Plot Numbering – Members who have not yet numbered their plots are reminded to do so.
- f. Extra plots let to Members – Stephen asked if an existing Member could be offered the plot next to his own when it becomes vacant. Carole pointed out that there are 47 on the waiting list so it should be offered to a new Member. Procedures for letting plots have to be adhered to and favouritism will not be tolerated.
- g. Ex Secretary leaving – Phil Evans who was RAHA Secretary for many years has had to surrender his plots due to ill health. As a well respected long standing Member it was agreed that Denise and Bill will give him a card on behalf of the Committee and Members. His leaving will be mentioned at the A.G.M. and Carole will organise a gift for him.
- h. Overgrown Plots – Vincent will strim the following overgrown plots - 131 / 117 / 129 & 42. The Members will be contacted to let them know they are to be strimmed. Wayne will cover plot 14 with a tarpaulin.

14. Diary Dates –

La Ronde / Borough of Culture / Open Day - Sunday 12th July 2020 (Cancelled)

RAHA Summer Show – Saturday / September (Cancelled)

Committee Meeting – Monday 7th September 2020 / 7.30pm

Romsey Show – Saturday 12th September 2020 (Cancelled)

A G M – Monday 12th October 2020 – 7.00pm (Subject to change)

Rent Day – Saturday 17th October 2020 – 10.00am – 12.00 noon (Subject to change)

Committee Meeting – Monday 9th November 2020 / 7.30pm

July 2020

