



Minutes of Committee Meeting Monday 13th January 2020

1. Present: Chairman; Carole Allen-Morley, Secretary; Denise Audoire, Treasurer; Robert Le Grice, Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinators; Wayne Lawrence, Vincent Coutable, Committee; Jenny Fakes, Diane Kingston, Ian Todhunter
2. Apologies – Melissa Doherty, Alex Mc Ardle, Iain Messenger, Stephen Treglown
3. Minutes of the last Committee Meeting Monday 18th November 2019 were agreed
4. Matters Arising –
 - a. Bonfires – Carole has contacted TVBC to follow up on a recent complaint and to find out if there is a possibility of them preventing us from having bonfires. The reply was that unless there is an excessive amount of bonfires then it is unlikely they would get involved. The Romsey Town Allotments allow them only if the wind is not blowing onto the railway track or the road. Carole also contacted the National Allotment Society and found that banning bonfires altogether was unusual. It was decided that the Committee will continue to monitor any bonfires and complaints. Members may be asked to extinguish bonfires if they are causing a nuisance to another plot holder, road users or neighbouring houses.
 - b. Weed Suppressant – Denise priced weed suppressant covering at; 2 metre wide = £1.20 per metre & black plastic 4 metre wide = £1.05 per metre. It was agreed that a maximum of £50 could be spent on it. Wayne and Vincent may have some pre used material which is free and can be used as soon as available. Vincent can also buy it at a lower cost if needed.
5. Finances –
 - a. Rent Collection / Outstanding Rent – All rents have now been paid. 7 Members paid after the November deadline and 4 paid more than 2 months after rent day. Robert had to chase them with phone calls. It was agreed that future rent notices will state that if not paid within a month from rent day then a “Notice to Quit,” will be issued to those Members. Diane will include it in the Newsletter.
 - b. Income and Expenditure – Income – A further £259 has been received in rent since November report. Rent total is now £3,339. Payments – Honoraria of £400 has been paid. Total funds to date of £9,453.58 which includes deposits of £4,190 leaving available RAHA funds of £5,263.58.
 - c. Bank Accounts – RAHA has 2 Accounts with HSBC Bank, 1 Savings and 1 Current Account. Deposits of £3,500 are held in Teachers Building Society and a deposit float of £690 is in the HSBC Savings account. Robert intends to open a separate Deposit account to hold just the float from deposits.
6. CCTV – The subject will be put on hold for now until suitable equipment has been found.
7. La Ronde / Borough of Culture – Some Members whose plots are along the centre road are taking part and two are putting up sculptures. The event will take place between 11.00am and 5.00pm on Sunday 12th July. There are 12 Gardens open to the public altogether. There will be a stall at the exit gate with produce for sale. A suggestion for having a produce stall at the exit gate on a more permanent basis is being considered for the coming season.

8. Plot Inspections – Carole distributed the new plots inspection list which is divided amongst 12 Committee Members. New Members were asked to read through the procedure which is on the Website. Carole will look at the plots before the inspections start on 1st April.
9. Data Collection Permission Form – To comply with new Data Protection Regulations Carole has drawn up a draft form for the Committee to consider. When finalised it will be issued to Member asking for their permission for the Association to keep their personal details.
10. Plots Update / Waiting List – There are 29 on the waiting list and 2 vacant plots 87 and 57B. 2 Plots have been let since the last meeting. A work party will be set up on plot 87 if not let beforehand.
11. Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinators –
 - a. Parking area at Knatchbull Gate – The work will take place during the next few weeks.
 - b. Skip – It was agreed to have a skip at the end of February. Metal will be set aside for a separate collection. A rota will be set up for Committee to supervise it. Members will be notified of the date nearer the time and a notice put on the notice boards. Wayne will order the skip.
 - c. Notice Boards – Carole will order one new notice board to begin with. The plywood backing still needs to be ordered.
 - d. Pumps – The Committee would like to thank Mr Middleton for repairing the RAHA pump on plot 6. Carole would like all pumps to be treated the same and shared.
 - e. Working Parties – A working party will be set up in March for plot 87 if not let beforehand. Also cutting back the verge along the Southampton road.
12. Fruit Trees – Jenny reported that it has been difficult getting Members to share surplus fruit. Now is the time to prune Apple and Pear trees. Carole asked Jenny to look into the possibility of a tree protection order on some of the older trees as they are valuable for their fruit and for the environment.
13. Shows – No report on shows in Melissa’s absence.
14. Diary Dates –
 - Committee Meeting – Monday 2nd March 2020 / 7.30pm
 - Committee Meeting – Monday 11th May 2020 / 7.30pm
 - Committee Meeting – Monday 6th July 2020 / 7.30pm
 - La Ronde / Borough of Culture / Open Day - Sunday 12th July 2020
 - RAHA Summer Show – Saturday / September (Date to be arranged)
 - Committee Meeting – Monday 7th September 2020 / 7.30pm
 - Romsey Show – Saturday 12th September 2020
 - A G M – Monday 12th October 2020 – 7.00pm
 - Rent Day – Saturday 17th October 2020 – 10.00am – 12.00 noon
 - Committee Meeting – Monday 9th November 2020 / 7.30pm
15. A.O.B.
 - a. Rent Increase – Robert suggested the cost per rod should rise to £1.40. It will be on the Agenda for consideration at the next Meeting.
 - b. Bird Boxes – Alex has offered 2 bird boxes to be put up at the Allotments. They are for sale at £5 each from the Romsey Men’s Shed. It was agreed to purchase 12 for placing around the Allotments. Wayne and Vincent will put them up.
 - c. Fence Repair – The wooden fence near the exit gate needs repairing. Vincent will look into it.
 - d. Radio Solent – Wayne has contacted Radio Solent about having a “Gardeners Questions” event for Members. The Committee agreed it would be a good idea. Wayne will make further enquiries about setting up the event.
 - e. Manure on Car Park – There is a considerable amount of manure left over from the delivery on the car park surface. Ian T has offered to clear it up.
 - f. Woodchips for Potholes - Carole will be putting more woodchips into the pot holes on the road from the crossroads towards the Town Allotments. Wayne will make enquiries with the contractors on the Skate Park about possibly obtaining left over stone which could be used for potholes.

