



Minutes of Committee Meeting Monday 2nd March 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, Jenny Fakes, Diane Kingston, Alex Mc Ardle, Ian Todhunter, Stephen Treglown
2. Apologies – Iain Messenger
3. Minutes of the last Committee Meeting Monday 13th January – Carole reminded Members of the subject of bonfires which was sorted but is still being monitored. The minutes were agreed
4. Matters Arising –
 - a. Bird Boxes – 12 have been built by the Romsey Men’s Shed at the cost of £100. They were more expensive than originally priced because more wood had to be purchased. Wayne and Vincent will put them up around the site. Diane will write an article about them in the Newsletter. If any Member would like one on their plot they need to contact a Committee Member.
 - b. Fence Repair – Vincent will price the materials needed for the repair.
 - c. Radio Solent – Wayne is arranging a Gardeners Question Time recording to take place on the allotments. Around 7 Members will take part. It will possibly take place in July.
5. Finances –
 - a. Rent Increase – Robert reported that the annual rent of £1,600 works out at £1.23 per rod. Rounding up to £1.25 per rod as voted at the AGM in 2019 would present significant logistical difficulties both for the Members and the Treasurer. Robert suggested: a) increasing the rent to £1.40 per rod. Rent for 5, 10 and 20 rod plots come out in whole pounds, leaving about 56 plots with odd sums. It would yield approx £215 too much which might defray short-term subs increase. Or b) we should round up all rent to nearest whole pound. The majority of the Committee voted for option a, £1.40 per rod.
 - b. Income and Expenditure – Income – Two lots of rent received £29 plus £60 in deposits. Payments – Notice board £150, parking area at Knatchbull gate £321.60 & bird boxes £100. Further payments due are £350 for the skip and £60 for stone. Total deposits held £4,250 and £4,696.84 RAHA funds available for spending. RAHA funds are now in a healthy position to pay for fencing and other repairs. 2 deposits are due to be returned.
6. La Ronde / Borough of Culture – The open day is still 12th July. Carole has been encouraging children to get involved in works of art. A table with produce for sale will be set up.
7. Plot Inspections – They will begin on 1st April. Paths will be looked at to make sure there are no trip hazards and are not blocked or uneven. They should be grass or wood chip and approx 2’6” wide to enable access in an emergency. Wood chip is free and can be delivered to a plot. A Member asked what would happen if a plot had not been used for 2 years. Carole’s reply was that the plot would have to be surrendered.
8. Data Collection Permission Form – To comply with the Data Protection Act 2018, the Association will follow “implied consent” rules, meaning we only collect and hold Members details to fill a purpose for running the group. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer all need to contact Members for various reasons and are to have access to Members details. Waiting list Co-ordinators only need data on the waiting list for contacting new Members.

Data Collection Permission Form – Continued – No other Committee Member will have access to Members data. The application forms on the website will be updated accordingly. Diane offered to share her data protection policy from Flautissimo so we can develop our own.

9. Plots Update / Waiting List – 2 plots have been let 57B & 87. Only one vacant plot has just become available. There are 23 on the waiting list.
10. Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinators –
 - a. Parking area at Knatchbull Gate – The work has been carried out and took longer than anticipated. There is now room for a number of cars to be parked in the area. The new scalplings used were good quality and a base was laid using some of the stone which Wayne had delivered. Ian would like to have the area packed down with a vibrating plate. Wayne will organise one for the job.
 - b. Skip – Wayne organised the skip which was delivered on Saturday 29th Feb and picked up Monday morning. It was successful apart from a lot of vegetation being put in. Wayne still has some left over rubbish to get rid of. Metal was collected separately.
 - c. Notice Board – Carole has purchased the new notice board. It can hold 12 A4 notices for display. Wayne and Vincent will organise the buying of extra materials required and put the notice board up in the main car park.
 - d. Potholes – Ian suggested that the roads be completely resurfaced. Carole had already made enquiries and obtained a quote of approx £4,500 - £5,000. It was recommended that drainage would need to be sorted out before the company would consider carrying out the resurfacing. Robert stated that this was too expensive. It was decided to use up the stone which we already have and continue to fill in the potholes on a regular basis. The 5mph signs need replacing plus more are needed. It will be on the next Agenda. Carole added that she will look for some suitable signs.
 - e. Working Parties – A working party will be set up in March for filling in the potholes and repairing the fence.
11. Fruit Trees – Jenny had researched the Tree Preservation Act to find out if it was worth getting any trees on the allotments registered. As they would have to be of some historic value, visible to the public or rare. The conclusion was, that it not something which we would pursue.
12. Shows – Melissa is ready to apply for Romsey Show. The cost has risen to £117 which includes £42 entry fee, 3 free tickets and 8 more tickets. It was agreed to pay the £117 to enter. Rules have changed and now a name and address must be visible on the display.
The RAHA Show will take place before the Romsey Show. A date and venue still has to be decided.
13. Diary Dates –

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
14. A.O.B.
 - a. New Co-opted Committee Member – Ian proposed Mr C Findlater as a new co-opted Committee Member. The Committee agreed to join Mr Findlater.
 - b. Fallen Fruit – Alex pointed out that fallen fruit are a valuable source of food for birds and wildlife.
 - c. Hedgehog Images on Facebook – It was suggested that an images of injured hedgehogs on the RAHA facebook page could be taken down. It had advised Members as hedgehogs are coming out of hibernation, to take care when strimming. Hedgehogs are useful invertebrate managers and they are to be encouraged on the allotments.

