

Minutes of Zoom Committee Meeting Tuesday 19th January 2021

1. **Present:** Chairman: Carole Allen-Morley, Treasurers: Robert Le Grice, Iain Messinger, Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinators: Wayne Lawrence, Vincent Coutable, Committee: Bill Chandler, Melissa Doherty, Craig Findlater, Diane Kingston, Stephen Treglown

2. **Apologies** – Denise Audoire, Jenny Fakes

3. **Committee Meeting 9th November 2020.** Item 13: Thanks to Diane for setting up the group e-mail. Item 14: Carole is the web-master. Item 19: Thank you Bill for clearing vacant plot 94A. Minutes unanimously approved.

3. **Matters Arising** – Last meeting Item 11: Notice Board too low. Not yet resolved as new posts are required to raise level of the notice board and this is a lot of work.

4. **Rats** – Carole contacted two rat control companies that used birds of prey and ratter Terriers. The former had closed, the latter said it was too big a job. A suggestion of putting up Owl boxes met with approval and further research will be done into these.

Action: Carole and Wayne will research Owl boxes.

5. Grounds Maintenance

a. Exit Road Repair – The possibility of tarmacking the road from the crossroads to the Knatchbull exit gate was discussed, with an estimated cost of £4,500 from ????? company. Grants may be available from Romsey Town Council and Test Valley Borough Council. Concerns raised about speeding on a good road surface - speed bumps will be needed. Can the Association afford it and what other projects are envisioned? Other major projects are Boundary fence repair (see next item) and shed to store Association tools. A decision to proceed or not will be made at the next meeting, with the aim of starting work in June this year if we go ahead.

Action: Wayne to check grant possibilities.

Action: Wayne to firm up estimate with speed bumps included.

b. Knatchbull Road Boundary Fence Repair – This has been costed out and found to be too expensive. Decided to expand existing hedge.

Action: Robert to check RAHA boundary along this fence line.

6. Finances

a. The rent is collected.

b. Income and Expenditure – Total funds £9,207.45 includes Deposits £3,960 leaving £5,247.45 RAHA funds available for spending

7. Plots update / Waiting list

There are 15 vacant plots and 52 new applicants and 8 existing Members on the Waiting List. Some vacant plots are so overgrown they are unlettable. Photographs of the four most overgrown vacant plots will be sent to the Grounds Maintenance team to see whether they can be cleared of weeds and rubbish, rotovated and covered to make reletting more feasible. It is concerning that more vacant plots will deteriorate as plot letting is on hold. Also Work Parties are impossible.

8. **Letting during COVID-19 restrictions** - Plot letting has virtually ceased due to COVID-19 restrictions and fears.

Action: Denise to e-mail those on Waiting List to see if they still want a plot to get rid of time wasters.

9. **Waiting List Procedure Review** – Due to the very long Waiting List and after a suggestion at the AGM, discussed temporarily changing Paragraph 7, page 2 of the Waiting List Procedure Document from 20 rods to 10 rods. *(There is a limit of 20 10 rods (500 250 square metres) per household. An existing tenant may apply for additional plots as long as the total area of their plots does not exceed 20 10 rods (500 250 square metres). Newcomers to allotments/gardening are usually offered 5 rods (125 square metres) to start with.)* Vote to accept changes – Yes unanimous.

10. **Fate of Plot 14** – The AGM vote on the future of Plot 14 was almost even between creating more parking and re-letting for cultivation. After a lot of discussion - liner plot along road rare / non plot holders using the parking / long Waiting List / more plot holders using cars – the vote was Parking 8, Re-let 2.

11. **Plots Upkeep and Inspection Review** – Some plots in a dreadful state and not in a rentable condition. Questions were raised about Plot 60A which is in a poor condition and the rented may have moved. Plot inspections start 1st April. The traffic light system was discussed. This would relate to the existing Plots Inspections Procedure as follows: Amber – Verbal Enquiry. Red – Formal Warning. (Section 3. Resolution Procedure, Page 3.) A second suggestion is that three people inspect all the plots. Advantage is consistency if same three people inspect all plots. Advantage is local knowledge if each Committee member inspects the few plots in their area. Committee agreed a hybrid is needed.

Action: Carole to enquire about status of Plot 60A.

Appeal Procedure – Carole did some research and there are two kinds of appeal procedures – one quite formal, ultimately ending in third party review, and a simple, informal procedure. General agreement to have a simple procedure, and rely on consensus building abilities.

Action: Carole to send round rough draft of procedure.

12. **Manure Delivery** - A majority of Members at the Zoom AGM (total 21) wanted the manure deliveries stopped because of rat import. Following complaints from plot holders, a survey was conducted on Facebook. The survey had 147 views, 40 votes in favour of resuming delivery, 0 votes against. There were no negative comments on the survey about either delivery or rat import. Vote to restart manure delivery (pending COVID) – Yes unanimous.

13. **Survey Monkey vs Facebook Survey** – Survey Monkey is now charging for use. The Facebook survey was easy to set up and proved successful. Future surveys will use Facebook, with information also e-mailed out and posted on the notice boards.

14. **Facebook Rules** – Group rules were outlined: Be kind & courteous, No hate speech or bullying, No promotions or spam, Respect everyone's privacy. Vote to post rules – Yes unanimous

15. **Any Other Business**

- Is a RAHA Shed needed for Association tools. Build one ourselves / use a half container / where would it be put?
Action: Iain to investigate half containers.
- Keep Member licence plates on record. Agreed.
Action: Carole to send e-mail requesting licence plate numbers.
- Buy new equipment on rotating cycle. Agreed this was a good idea. Some tools dangerous – does insurance cover? Tools are not hired – a small sum taken for running costs.
Action: Robert to check if insurance covers equipment use.

16. **2021 Diary Dates** (Dates to be discussed)

Committee Meeting – Monday 15th March 2021

Committee Meeting- Monday 17th May 2021

Committee Meeting – Monday 12th July 2021

August Summer Show 2021 (if taking place)

Committee Meeting – Monday 6th September 2021

Romsey Show – September Saturday 2021 (if taking place)

A G M – Monday 11th October 2021

Rent Day – Saturday 16th October 2021

Committee Meeting – Monday 15th November 2021 (New Committee)