

RAHA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held on 17th July 2023

Held at Comrades Club at 19.30 hrs

1. Attendance

Carole Allen-Morley (CAM) - Chair
Bill Chandler (BC)
Gemma Collins (GC)
Wayne Lawrence (WL)
Iain Messenger (IM)
Deborah Sargant (DS)
Alf Tilt (AT)
Stephen Treglown (ST)

2. Apologies

Jenny Fakes and Jules Facchini

3. Minutes of last Committee Meeting 15th May 2023 – Approved

4. Matters Arising

- A) *Site Container* – Person scheduled to move container to the RAHA site said there was not enough clearance for supports. IM will arrange for alternative transport.
- B) *Address of Pickling Company* – Apparently a case of mistaken communication and the pickling company doesn't pickle allotment produce.
- C) *Updated Risk Assessments on web-site* – Yes. Thanks Gemma.
- D) *Road Repair Work Parties* – Two work parties have used the road scalplings to fill pot holes. The first worked with hand tools, the second using dumper and tamper kindly maned by plot holder Thomas H. All agreed it is easier using tamper and dumper. Committee agreed a vote of thanks in the form of a case of beer for Thomas. Still a pile of scalplings on car park – Wayne to arrange another work party
- E). *Exit Gate No Entry Signs* – Mixed feelings about needing more signage. Decided to leave as is for now.

5. RAHA Show

In the absence of an Events Co-ordinator, no-one else volunteered to arrange the RAHA show. Vote to cancel it was unanimous.

6. La Ronde

La Ronde was considered a success, especially as so many plot holders put up scarecrows or decorated their plots. The public voted for their favourite plot and Victor won. Also a wonderful amount of donated produce, jams and chutneys, all of which were sold and raised £73. We need to decide which charity will receive the money – Committee decided to have a vote on Facebook. GC

Attendance was down on last year – 66 this year vs 100 last year.

Discussion about significant thefts from sheds on Plots 16 and 17 which occurred the night of La Ronde. Great sympathy to the plot holders, but Committee agreed it is very difficult to attribute thefts to La Ronde and voted to participate in La Ronde next year. Decided to try to keep public to main paths to stop walking on plots and into greenhouses.

7. Asbestos

All asbestos double wrapped and taken to waste disposal site. Thanks, Carole, for doing this.

8. Web Site and Email hosted by LCN

A) Thank you Gemma for cleaning up the *web-site* and making it easier to use. We seem to have lost the recipe section though.

B) Two main problems with current *emails* which is hosted by LCN – not enough storage (1 gig) so a lot of deleting messages, and e-mails not going out.

Carole has since solved the e-mails not going out issue – due to change in coding by Google which LCN had to compensate for, and hadn't until she called.

Gemma suggested we changed to GoDaddy to host internet services.

- More storage.
- Can set up web-based individual Member accounts so they can pay on line with direct links to bank, keep track of their accounts, etc.
- Currently £50 a year due to sale (LCN is £100pa).

Committee voted to change to GoDaddy, and Gemma will manage transfer.

9. Facebook

Do we keep our RAHA Facebook group restricted to active plot holders only?

- Previous discussion several years ago – Committee then decided not.
- Lot of management to delete and add names as plot holders change.
- Family members are also active on Facebook group.
- Non-plot holders advertise things (sheds, tools) that benefit group.
- Everyone in group are subject to same rules of behaviour.
- Good outreach / advertising.

Committee voted to keep Facebook as is.

10. Welcome Letter change

Changes to welcome letter reflecting Craig's comments were passed around at meeting. Introductory letter more welcoming, with an accompanying information sheet. Committee to read and comment by e-mail.

11. Pumps

Pump on 112 working.

Pump on 108 needs to be lowered.

Another pump near Plots 23 apparently unnecessary as adjacent plot holders have no problems with water access. Pumps cannot be installed at will due to competing cones of depression.

Committee agreed to have a supply of pump washers in RAHA shed (once moved) that can be purchased by plot holders.

12. Probation for new members

Committee agreed no changes needed to current oversight of new members, and plot inspection team are well placed to see potential problems.

13. Finances

A) Rent Review with Broadlands attended by Iain and Carole. They will increase the rent to £2,000 pa in October 2024. Broadlands working with Council in setting rents for both allotments. No indication they were thinking of taking allotments away.

B) Teachers Account (plot deposits) : £4,920. This account will be moved to HSBC Saving once paperwork is sorted.

HSBC Account (operating account) : £3,849

Expenditures : £21 in phone ?????, £5 a month for bank charges, £132 asbestos removal

Five new plot deposits

14. Waiting List

26 on the Waiting List, with 6 Members wanting specific plots, and 5 people deferred to later.

15. Plots update

Three neglected plots to receive 28 day letters. One plot holder has had a very difficult year, but adjacent plot holders said plot neglected last year too, so Committee voted to send letters out to all three plot holders, and check in 28 days to see if Notice to Quit deserved.
Rudeness to Committee members not acceptable.

16. Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator Report

Road and pumps dealt with elsewhere. Need to clear the weeds from the Manure area before load of wood chips arrive. Fallen signs need to be put up again.

17. Any Other Business

- A) It has long been accepted that *parking areas on individual plots* can be used by non-plot holders AS LONG AS they move at once when the plot holder needs parking.
- B) There are three *community parking areas* for any plot holders, one at the main notice board (angled parking only) and two at the exit gate. There is also community land in front of Plot 81 specifically for turning (no parking). No plot rent is paid for these areas.
Need to change Site Map on web-site to show community parking.
- C) Two complaints of a plot holder urinating in public. Committee unanimous that this is forbidden.
- D) Given the usefulness of CCTV cameras on Gemma's plot photographing white van of vandals, we should once again investigate the possibility of CCTV cameras at the exit gate.
- E) We should seriously consider locking the entry and exit gates.

18. 2023 Diary Dates

4th September 2023 - Committee Meeting (Monday)

9th September 2023 - Romsey Show (Saturday)

16th October 2023 AGM (Monday) 21st October 2023 Rent Day (Saturday)

13th November 2023 - Committee Meeting (Monday) / New Committee