

BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY

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AGM Thursday 13th December 2018.

Minutes

Apologies received from:

Roger Pollock, Charles Wild & Phyllida Culpin

Those attending: Brian Atkinson, Lynne Atkinson, Colin Sparkes, Maggie Haworth, Barry Thomas, Mandy Rathbone, Geoff Adderley, David Rapson, Roge Harris, Fiona Dare, Julie Penfold, & Louise Ferguson

Minutes of last meeting

Matters arising:

- Chairman outlined discussions with BTC concerning small plot sizes at Priory Mews and overpriced fees. BTC are looking into it and accept there is an anomaly.
- There were 193 total plots in 2017 as will be mentioned in treasurers report.
- The minutes were signed by the chairman.

Chairman's report

I always seem to start off this report by mentioning the weather: so, this year so I will do it again.

It has been a difficult year; hot and dry in April/May/June and then catching up with the rainfall from then on; however, my potatoes did well, as did runner

beans: as long as they were watered. Brassicas stood still, but now are taking off well. I think others had the same experience

Last year we reported that Burton Bradstock had problems with the width of paths. I understand that the Parish Council, who own the allotments, is trying to push plot holders into widening the paths to make them safe to walk on. Perhaps we should take note in Bridport before the Town Council forces the issue.

With reports of poorly kept and empty plots, we wrote to the Town Council after a visual inspection by myself:

BADAS CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO BTC 25TH NOVEMBER 2018

The Bridport and District Allotments Society (currently 180 members) is, as always, grateful for the continuing support of the town council for allotments, which remain a popular activity in the town and neighbouring parishes: there were 80 plots in 2000 now 180, I believe. The popularity of allotments is indicated by the two waiting lists which the council maintains, which record about 80 people waiting, split fairly evenly between the town and adjoining parishes.

As you know, from time to time I visit the various allotment sites on behalf of members to look at the current state of the plots. I have visited recently, and I have noted the following – these are my own estimates:

A - probably not used for at least 2 maybe 5 years or more,

B - probably not used this year,

C - not in a condition as per Agreement with BTC; a little difficult to judge sometimes, better when I judge in August/September, which I do on sites outside the town.

Dibdin Close	1A ,2B, 2C (may be room for further plots.)
Flaxhayes	1A, 3B, 3C
Skilling North	2A, 1B. 2C
Skilling South	2A, 1B, C many
Bowling Green	1B
Community Orchard	2B
Allington	3A, 2B, C many
St Swithun's	1B
Total	21 plus category C

While appreciating that some allotment-holders may have temporary difficulties in maintaining their plots because of illness or other commitments, it would appear from the above that at least some of these are no longer in active use, and would be better being offered to those on the waiting list. I understand that the town council has a procedure for reminding plot holders and final warnings, and wonder whether this has been activated recently as per your Email of 1st September 2015.

We realise that you are extremely busy on a number of projects, but would be grateful for an update so that I can report back to our AGM which is coming up in the near future. We would also be interested to know if there is any more news on the possible new site at the Cemetery.

With thanks again for your continuing support.

The received reply was as follows:

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Thank you for your letter received this morning, I can update the following points: -

We have now issued all the tenancy agreements for the coming year

So far we have 28 still to pay out of nearly 180

We have issued allotments to over 12 new tenants

All allotments will be checked in March for evidence they are being worked on

We will be adding extra plots at St Cecelia's near Dibdin View possibly 6

We be also getting the new plots at Gundry Road, Bothenhampton ready to offer by Christmas hopefully but definitely by March

Thanks

Daryl

(TO CONTINUE)

The members of the Community Allotments and Orchard, at the rear of St Mary's Church, have been very active this year: with maintenance days, open days, wassailing event etc. - all quite well attended.

We had only 1 committee meeting this year because all other day-to-day business was done by Lynne our Secretary, in consultation with other members. At the full Committee meeting in September, we decided to recommend that there should be a summer visit plus barbeque, and a Christmas meeting incorporating the AGM and a quiz, say, with nibbles. By adding the AGM to this meeting, we do away with the autumn quarterly meeting with hopefully, getting more to the combined meeting. We will also have the spring meeting with activity/special guest.

The barbeque was a great success this past year; well organised and administered by Mandy, Fiona, Roger and other volunteers - so we look forward to next year's!

In future, it was agreed that all meetings would start at 7 pm on Wednesdays - if possible. Thursdays in the town now seem to be getting congested as far as meetings are concerned.

A small group, led by Mandy, also volunteered to help with the organisation of the Potato Day. However, they will require further assistance on the day, so please see Mandy if you can help: this is good publicity for BADAS. Incidentally, I believe we have recently had a few new members- not all allotment holders, but with large gardens. Mandy will comment on this.

With a great big thank you to Lynne, Brian, Mandy, Roger, Fiona for all their hard work and with especial thanks to Charles Wild for producing our Newsletter.

This leaves me with little to do, so I did suggest that this would be my last year, but I am willing to carry on if you will have me.

I hope you all will have a Happy Christmas, having done your winter digging, and perhaps planted your rice!

Thank you

Colin Sparkes.

Matters arising from the Chairman's report:

Jeff Adderley from Burton Bradstock outlined that their council had taken some action over the uneven paths although it wasn't very effective - but at least the council had taken some notice; it is an ongoing matter.

With respect to the Chairman's letter to Bridport town council the chairman does consider that demand nationally has declined. However, some local plots are extremely overgrown and indeed one at Skilling has a wild fruit tree growing on it with a trunk of about 6 inches diameter.

The reply from the council was read to the meeting and it appears that they have ignored our comments regarding overgrown and neglected plots. We do feel that this is an issue that needs to be addressed.

A question was asked regarding the new plots under construction by the council and whether they are full or half plots line (It is considered nationally that a full plot is 30x10 yds, 300sq. yds and 1/2 plot 150 sq. yds). Again, this needs to be resolved.

A potential new member described being offered an extremely overgrown plot at Flaxhayes, which she deemed to be unacceptable. Apparently, this plot has been vacant for about 10 years and had been problematic because the tenant had moved making communication impossible. It is a corner plot strewn with rubbish and with a footpath across it, and where the neighbouring plot holder had encroached. It is without proper markers to indicate the true boundary. She questioned whether one should have the full terms and conditions available before entering into an agreement with the council. It was agreed that these conditions should be available on the council's website and preferably on our own website also, so that potential members would know exactly what is required.

West Allington reported that there were problems there also, with overgrown plots. It was stated that at Burton Bradstock there seems to be less of a problem as when tenants consult the council regarding problems, then a letter does get sent to problem tenants; plus, the parish charges a £25 deposit upon signing the agreement – which is not returnable if the plot is neglected.

It was agreed that it may help if the minutes of our meetings are sent to the council, so they are aware of our feelings.

The revised meeting arrangements were discussed and it was agreed that the summer barbecue was a great success and should be repeated next year in 2019.

Potato day organisation is underway but more help would be appreciated - particularly with meeting and greeting clients when they arrive. Please contact Mandy if you can help. Posters are available to publicise the event. Treasurer confirmed that a 10 % discount has been agreed with Pennard's, upon

production of one's current (green) membership card. We have not had any particular contact with Groves and it was described how when purchasing special offers of bulk deals, membership discounts were not allowed which is disappointing. However, it was also described how Groves will deliver free of charge when spending over a certain amount.

The commercialisation of Groves at Christmas time was not welcome to some members, but it was reported that little Groves does not seem to be going in this direction and although not as large, does have a decent selection of plants with membership cards also being accepted at Little Groves for discount.

Treasurer & Membership Secretary's Report

The overall number of members has decreased by 7 on last year - and remains fairly consistent, year on year.

Our main additional expense this year was the inclusion of a Summer BBQ event alongside our usual allotment walkabout in June. We were lucky to have a beautiful evening but this was well attended and enjoyed, so we intend to repeat this at a different location next year.

With this extra expense, plus the costs for the website, we did in fact have a deficit of expenditure over income for the year, of £142.92. But as our bank balance still stands at £940.07 there is no cause for concern, and our membership fee should remain at £2 per annum.

Mandy Rathbone

Membership Secretary and Treasurer

1st September 2018

Matters arising from the Treasurer & Membership Secretary's Report

Agreed that the current annual subscription of £2 will continue in 2019.

Election of Committee.

The existing officers and committee members were re-elected.

Chairman: Colin Sparkes

Secretary: Lynne Atkinson

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Mandy Rathbone

Minute Taker: Brian Atkinson

Committee member: Roger Pollock

Committee member: Fiona Dare

Committee member (editor, News Letter): Charles Wild

Any other business.

Could we run excursions or site visits? This is possible but would require someone to organise them. All suggestions will be welcomed as long as feasible – but will require someone to organise such functions. It was mentioned that the gardening club (£10 per annum) have one meeting a month and a number of outings and things like Christmas lunch - should that be of interest.

A vote thanks was according to the chair and committee.

Meeting closed 20.05, followed by a social gathering with refreshments.