

# Allotment Association

## Minutes from meeting held June 20<sup>th</sup> at The Lamb.

**Present:** Ian, Maisie, Mark, Judy, David (Stonebridge), David (Elcot) Jo, Wendy, Peter, Anne, Sarah.

**Apologies:** Bronwen

**The minutes of the AGM were agreed as being an accurate representation.**

**New items:**

### Allium Leaf Miner

David raised the issue of Allium leaf miners for everyone's interest. They attack leeks, onions, chives, shallots, and garlic. The leaf-miners cause damage to the leaves, and then the plants become prone to fungal and bacterial infections which cause rotting. There is little that can be done.

### Slug pellets

A short discussion on slug pellets following some email enquiries from plot holders. Metaldehyde is now banned so any new purchases will likely be ferric phosphate – which is less damaging and approved for use by organic growers.

**Action:** To seek clarification on whether Stonebridge are allowed to use ferric phosphate and/or other pest control products where there are deemed suitable for organic systems. Query this with Town Council and ARK.

### Community Fridge

Reminder that the community fridge is a good place to off-load any surplus veg. There is a Facebook page for it, which is the best place to find out opening times, or to contact the volunteers to arrange a time for donating.

### WhatsApp

Suggestion to have a WhatsApp group for Elcot and Stonebridge. This could be useful for reminding people of the things that are the responsibility of plot holders, and things that the Town Council will see to. Can also be a place for queries so that more experienced growers can help the newer ones, and other useful tips or bits of information.

**Action:** Email to be sent to Elcot and Stonebridge allotment holders to ask for their mobile numbers should they want to join such a group.

### Social Event

There was a suggestion that the Team Tidy days could be made into more of a social event. It was felt that if the WhatsApp groups were successful then this is the sort of thing that could be arranged through that.

### Minutes

As not all plot holders are on the mailing list for the minutes it was felt that they should be put on the notice boards/gates at Stonebridge and Elcot.

**Action:** Minutes to be printed and put on the notice board at Elcot and Stonebridge.

## **Reports from Allotments:**

### Elcot:

- Boundary area by the football club needs some attention. Paths are the plot holder's responsibility, but this information may not be passed on/remembered when new plot holders start. Suggestion to try a buddy system so that new plot holders have an older plot-holder to check things like maintenance with. WhatsApp group might help with this, or perhaps a handbook to each allotment site, with some hints and tips in.
- Suggestion to have a "Help George Fortnight" in late September/early October. George has had a tough time of late and has a long history of allotment-ing in Marlborough – he would welcome some help. There is broken glass on the plot so anyone helping should ensure they are wearing gloves and stout boots.

- Had reports of the padlocks being left unlocked – send reminder to Elcot plot holders to relock padlocks, even when working on their allotments.
- Fence line still requires re-tensioning
- A watering can has been reported missing
- Two new plot holders at 1E and 1D

#### Stonebridge:

- 4 new plots have been taken
- Plot 12 is being relinquished and can be split.
- Plot 18 will be split with only ½ needing to be allocated
- Plot holders have offered to dig and plant anywhere that is not being utilised to provide veg for the community fridge.
- **Team tidy day with be October 10th.**
- Recycling bins – update from Mark – these must be put at the road-side at the top of the hill to be emptied.
- No incidents of items going missing.

#### St John's :

- Open Garden Sunday at the Community Garden on 26th June from 1-5pm.
- All plots are looking good and are being worked
- One plot holder will be leaving in August.

#### AOB

- Suggestion that the Town Council should be reminded that where sensible plots will be split when they have been relinquished in order to try to reduce the waiting list. **Action:** To remind Town Council of this preferred policy.
- **Action:** Can we ask the Town Council for an updated number of people on the waiting list?
- Mark is working on a new gate at Stonebridge. *UPDATE 26/06 This has been completed.*
- The fence at Elcot needs to go on the list of works for the Town Council. The concrete pillars are no longer secure and the wire needs re-tensioning.

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#### Future Dates:

Next meeting – September 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Hopefully this will be held at the Community Garden at St. Johns, weather permitting. Otherwise at The Lamb. All welcome.