

## **Marlborough Allotment Association Committee Meeting**

**16 Sept 2019 at The Roebuck, 7.00 – 8.30pm**

**Present:** Judy Pitts, Bronwen Brown, Jo Payne, Ian Ryman

**Apologies:** Wendy Jackson, David Levett

### **Follow up from the previous minutes**

Agreed that most of these would fall out of the Allotment site reports.

### **Allotment Reports**

#### **Town Council Waiting List:**

IT issues with Sue Fry's computer, have meant that she has been unable to give an update this week. Nigel Weatherly is on holiday until 24 September.

#### **St John's Close:**

The Community Garden was judged on 23 July by Jon Wheatley of RHS who was most impressed. Lady Emma Fellowes was also a guest judge. A cream tea and croquet were held after the judging. Put the Garden to bed days Sunday 29 Sept and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> – afternoons. This will be our Team Tidy Day.

- One allotment has been surrendered end August and reallocated to the next people on the TC waiting list.
- A half plot has been taken back by the TC mid-September and offered out. Nigel Weatherly to look at the condition of it and see if his grounds staff could help make it workable again.
- There appears to be another person on the list who would like this area.
- Noticeboard has been removed.

#### **Stonebridge:**

- Noticeboard still there. Ian to remove letter box.
- Two new plots still to be created. Possibly mark out on Team Tidy Day. Ian to contact NW to do site visit. There is a waiting list. Perhaps these new plots could be offered out rent free until February.
- Two of the plots rented out to new tenants in Feb are not being tended. Reps have contacted tenants. Town Council should send letter/email to say they will be reallocated to next on the list.
- Some branches have been cut back from Vicarage Close side by a resident. NW to discuss overhanging branches with Ian on site visit.
- Grass is being cut regularly. Thanks to the Grounds Staff for that.
- There was a break in at a shed, which was dealt with promptly by a plot holder and the Town Council. All secure now.

#### **Elcot:**

- Bindweed on fenceline has been dealt with by TC. Need to catch it early next year, and keep on it.
- Team Tidy to focus on creating a 'firebreak' between the Football Club and the allotments, to make it less attractive to vermin – specifically rats.
- Bronwen to develop advice on how to minimise rat infestations, including composting guidelines. Jo to pass on a document written for St John's Close residents by a neighbour.
- If any tenant wants to try out ferret poo as a deterrent, please could they source it themselves.
- Elcot is the most popular of all the sites in the town and has the longest waiting list. Four plots have been identified as 'less tended'. Reps to talk to tenants about that and see if any can be made available or split.
- Bronwen to remove letterbox from Noticeboard

#### **General Topics:**

- Facebook Page – Bronwen has created one. Please could those tenants with Facebook request to join the group? 'Marlborough Allotments'

- Committee - We could do with a new committee member who could act as a 'social secretary'. Social media savvy an advantage. Contact Jo on 07766 721799 if you are up for it.
- Team Tidy Day 6 October 2019 from 10 to 12 for Elcot and Stonebridge. Jo to do poster. Judy to send out reminder.

**Discuss at next meeting:**

Competitions– Prettiest/tidiest/ Awards?

Wildflower Theme for 2020 to tie in with bees, Marlborough Transition, Marlborough in Bloom.

**Date of next meeting: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at Roebuck at 7pm**