

Allotment Committee

Minutes of meeting: 10th January 2024 – Parade Cinema

Present: Bronwen Brown, Judy Pitts, Dave Levett, Maisie Jepson, Anthony John Jennings, Rose Mathews and Jacqui Melhuish

Apologies: Jo Payne, Ian Ryman, Mark Luson, Tom Hanson, Wendy Jackson

Matters arising from last Meeting:

- A higher than usual rainfall over recent months would seem to make suggestions about proportionate water use unnecessary but the committee would still like to highlight responsible use of water for the growing season to include careful use of hosepipes to allow access for all and no use of sprinklers.
- TH White loyalty scheme to be renewed. Reps for each site will be able to get some cards from Tom Hanson. **Bronwen also going to check with Sue to see if some could be left at the Town Council offices.** **
- Sponsored water butts – **Maisie to pick this up again.**
- Approximately 20 people currently on the waiting list.

Reports from Allotments:

Stonebridge:

No representative present but those present but Ian had forwarded comments:

- There is a WhatsApp group and Ian Ryman is trying to increase membership.
- 1 plot has changed hands.
- 2 plots unallocated. Empty and unworked plots will be reallocated after subscriptions are collected by the end of Feb.

Elcot:

- 1 plot has been untended for most of the year but has not yet been reallocated. As before empty and unworked plots will be reallocated after subscriptions are collected by the end of Feb.
- Discussion about the noticeboard and its usefulness. Felt that it is useful as many plot holders do not have email addresses. Volunteers therefore required to give noticeboard some attention.
- WhatsApp group still active and others invited to join – laminated QR code could go on the noticeboard once repaired.
- Rose suggested that an outlet for surplus produce could be Love Marlborough Kids Meals. Rose would be happy to collect from Elcot on a Thursday to give to LMKM on a Friday to send produce out with their weekly meals. **Rose to check with Cath (LMKM coordinator).** If this would work, a notice could go on the board to let plot holders know.
- Manure delivery from local farmer is being organised by Dave Levett. Plot holders to contact Dave Levett directly if they want a share.

St Johns

- Not much change.
- Discussion about a shared lawnmower, but uncertainty about where this would be kept and best way to fund it.

AOB

- Revert meetings back to Mondays as this day seemed to be better for the majority.
- Tom Hanson has been very diligent on the Facebook page – thanks go to him.

**Next Meeting: 7pm on 15th April 2024 at The Parade Cinema
All welcome.**

**** Update following the meeting:**

Town Council are happy to hold some TH White Loyalty cards and will keep a record of who gets one. TH White has confirmed that it is fine to continue to use expired cards for the rest of 2024.