

North Cadbury Allotment Association

Minutes of the Open Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 8th September at 7:30pm at Brooklings, Brookhampton

Attendees: see attached attendance sheet.

Kate Richards opened the meeting and thanked Sharon Dobbins for the use of her home as a venue for the meeting.

1. Apologies: Tim Hosker, Glenda Abrahams, Sean and Laura O’Gorman, Wayne Mitchell, Julia Ingram
2. Minutes of the last meeting: Corrections: the meeting ended at 09:15pm. The minutes were amended, approved and signed by the Chairperson Kate Richards.
3. Matters arising: there were no matters arising as the Provision of Water is mentioned under 5. as a separate item. On the theme of water Pam L. pointed out it was remarkable how all the plot holders managed to cope with the dry weather.
4. Treasurer’s Report: **Income**: Monies received to date stand at GBP 246 of which GBP 26 was the annual subscription to SWCAA for insurance cover. Sharon had drawn up a statement for each plot stating monies paid to date, which she hand out to those at the meeting. Attached to the statement was also a receipt for the insurance and a copy of the terms. The statements would be updated every quarter and the quarterly rent (GBP 6 for a full plot, GBP 4 for a half plot) payable on the 1st of each quarter: i.e. 1st October, 1st January, 1st April, and 1st July. It was agreed that where ever possible statements would be sent out by email. A record would be kept of these emails having been received and read.

Bank Account: At present the monies for the quarterly rent are paid directly into the account of the Parish Council. This is an interim measure until the Allotment Society is able to set up a dedicated bank account. The treasurer has made enquiries and proposed opening a bank account with NatWest at the Castle Cary branch. Signatories would be the Treasurer and Chairperson. A resolution from the Bank was read out. It was unanimously agreed to open an account with NatWest.

5. **Provision of Water**: The Chairperson reported on a meeting held on 11th August by the working party charged with investigating the provision of water on the site. The feasibility of a water pump and the associated costs were discussed. As the Parish Council could not fund the supply and installation of a water pump and water tower with associated pipe-work other sources of funding were investigated. Kate Richards discovered it was possible to apply

for a Grassroots Grant from the Somerset Community Foundation but as the deadline for submission was 17th August action had to be taken swiftly. Peter Newth supplied the costs and Kate Richards on behalf of the NCAA submitted an application for a grant of GBP 1,481. Notification will be given at the end of September whether the application was successful and the project will be taken accordingly to the next stage.

6. **Allotment Plot for North Cadbury School.** An application dated 24th July 2010 for a half-plot for the sole use of North Cadbury C. of E. School was received and circulated by email committee members and read out at the meeting (see attachment). The question of waiving the annual fee was raised by Pam Wood (PC representative on the NCAA committee) at the PC meeting of 7th September. The PC is happy to forfeit the rent for the half plot. The plot-holders and committee members present are happy to let the school cultivate the half plot and made the suggestion that the plot be accessed by the children directly from the side verge not along the narrow central path.
7. **Number of Plots taken and Vacancies** Not taking into account the plot to be taken by the school a total of 18 full plots and half plots are being cultivated by 15 plot holders. 3 half plots are vacant. The question of maintenance of the vacant plots was raised. It was suggested that the weeds at the top of the allotment site could be topped when the verge is mowed. Ultimately these areas should be grassed until such time as they are let. The costs of grass seed and implementing this would be investigated.
8. **Any other business**
 - 8.1. **Dogs and Dog fouling.** Glenda Abraham raised the point in an email (attached) that she has cleared up after dog walkers visiting the site and suggested that signs be put up at each end of the site, which whilst welcoming visitors, urge them to clear up after their dogs. On the subject of dogs, Heidi Howcroft passed on a message from Julia Ingram that Chester was gravely ill after having been diagnosed by the vet as having eaten slug pellets. This occurred on Tuesday, 7th September somewhere in the area between October Cottage (High Street) and the Allotments site. Julia was keen to inform other allotment holders of the dangers of insecticides such as slug pellets to dogs and small children. Following on from this Kate Richards reminded those present of the appropriate clause 10) in the agreement relating to dogs, which she read out, The key wording was the dogs were allowed if “ held under close control” and “to remove all faeces deposited...” It was agreed that notices would be put up at both entrances to the Allotment site, with the wording, or to that effect:
“North Cadbury Allotment Association:
Visitors welcome at their own risk.
Dog walkers please keep dogs on lead and clean up any mess”.
Heidi Howcroft prepared a draft sign that was passed by Kate Richards as a hard copy and by email.
 - 8.2. **Pernicious Weeds Plot 6:** Heidi Howcroft pointed out the general

abandoned state of Plot 6. According clause (1) of the agreement signed by all tenants there is an obligation to “Keep the plot clean, clear of detritus, well cultivated and fertile and in good condition.....” The pernicious weeds, in particular bind weed need to be combated before they spread out into other plots. In June Kate Richards called in an email for a combined action to combat groundsel and creeping buttercup, which was duly undertaken by the majority of plot holders and has been successful in keeping those weed under control. Tim Griffey the plot holder of plot 6, who was present at the meeting, stated that he had been having problems over the summer and did not understand the fuss. Kate Richards suggested the way forward might be to tackled the pernicious weeds along the boundary first and then work inwards to treat the rest.

8:3 “Squash Fest” Pumpkins of all shapes and forms are growing very well on the allotments. Sean O’Gorman has well over 100. Heidi Howcroft passed on an idea that Sean and she had discussed of having a “Squash Fest” or Squash Day, whereby the children would measure the largest squash, the squash could be judged , a prize given and the allotment holders and any other interested parties/invited guests would come together and perhaps enjoy a bowl of pumpkin soup. The idea was well received and a date and time of 3:00pm Saturday 23rd October suggested. The details will have to be sorted out but the general feeling was this should be a simple, uncomplicated event. Kate Richards pointed this could be similar to a harvest festival event but unfortunately she would not have the time to organise it. Theresa Hallet suggested raffling her large pumpkin.

9. **Date of the next open Committee Meeting:** Wednesday 12th January 2011 at 7:30pm at Brooklings, Brookhampton.

There being no further business the meeting was drawn to a close by Kate Richards at 08:45 pm.

Heidi Howcroft, Secretary. 09.09.2010