



**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 19.30 on 6 Nov 2017 at 84 Makins Road, Henley-on-Thames**

In attendance: Doug Richards, Barry Webb, Dave Chilvers, Sharon Alden, Sophie Pentecost, Mike Alden, Dave McEwen, Laura Dance, Ann Sandars, Peter Anderson, Mandy Taylor

Dave McEwen introduced potential new committee members to the meeting: Barry Webb (Greencroft), and Sharon and Mike Alden (Watermans).

Apologies

None

1. Minutes of last meeting  
Minutes passed as accurate.
2. Matters arising from the previous minutes  
All contained within agenda.
3. Town Council Matters:

Gates and Cameras. The history of the investigation of gate and cameras was as a way to address vandalism, fly tipping, theft and personal security. However, when this was discussed at the AGM, concerns were raised about the cameras, namely: likely ineffectiveness as a way to prevent thefts; privacy for plottolders; liability for additional and ongoing costs; inferred liability as a result of managing it (it's HTC land and they retain responsibility).

The Committee agreed that we should proceed for now with just the gate and see what difference that might make, before, if still necessary, developing a more concrete camera proposal to test with plottolders. Dave Chilvers agreed to take on responsibility for key fobs for the gate and further investigation into cameras.

H&S DM is to write a report on this for the council, to include issues with uncovered water butts and drain covers.

HiB award evening - The Committee will be represented by DC, DR, MW and DM. Prizes will be £20 cash for the volunteers, £20 garden centre vouchers for the best newcomers, and the cups for the best plottolders. In addition, there will be a new award of £20 for the best starter plottolder. MW to produce a certificate for this.

Banner

This has now been acquired.

4. AGM  
It was agreed that MF's jobs should be split between LD (to take on meeting papers) and DC and DM (to take on Town Hall liaison). Site specific issues, such as rent, will be



dealt with by site managers. LD will replace Marisa as a signatory. There will be a “Thank you” event for MF when she is well enough - not before next year.

There are a number of plothead email addresses which bounce back, and we should use this as a prompt to get up to date information. LD and DC will look at this.

5. Treasurer’s report

The honoraria have been issued. There will be one role’s worth spare next year, and what to do with this should be considered in advance. We have received an uplift from the council, and a donation from the cricket club. We currently have £3200 available to us, with a few major events to come.

6. Watermans update

The newly appointed Henley Conservation Officer will visit the allotments next Wednesday. There have been issues with out of control weeds on plots we have held for a plothead with long term sickness. The Committee agreed that in those circumstances we could acquire and use black weed suppressant fabric. The current arrangement with the council grass cutting team (that they fit us in where they can) is not working well for us. DM and DC to negotiate a move to a more regular arrangement. DM to raise with Town Clerk in first instance.

7. Greencroft

All rents bar three have been paid. One five pole and one ten pole plot are vacant. There is a problem with tree stumps, and a need to do the coppicing. The Committee agreed that LE could buy a small battery powered chainsaw, to be used only by him (for work needed on either site) and kept at his home. Some jobs on Greencroft that need help from Parks Dept but they are fully stretched because of illness to Gareth Bartle and Karl (2nd in Parks) cutting his time. LE to try contacting Karl for an on-site meeting to discuss.

8. Website

The website revamp is progressing well, but more content is now needed. Content could come from committee meeting, mini articles, interviews and competitions. MW, SP, SA to form a mini working group to think of ideas.

9. Social events

a. Christmas Dinner - 14 December. 18 tickets were sold at the AGM. Tickets are also available through Hobbs. There will be a raffle, for prizes donated by the committee.

b. Plan your year event with seed swap - Monday 19th Feb 7.30, King's Arms Barn

c. Plant sale - 2 June. Greenshoots have been approached as usual.

d. Produce sale - will not take place this year. Dates (1st, 8th and 15th Sept) will be offered to Greenshoots.

e. Boat trip - 14 June.



10. AOB  
None.

11. Date of next meeting  
Monday 15 January.  
Monday 19 March.