

Rotherham Allotments Alliance

Board Meeting No.50

On Meeting Date: Monday 24th May 2021

Meeting Location: Online: Zoom

Meeting Called By: Brian Steele

Chair: Brian Steele

Secretary: Jack Taylor (Minutes Donna Bushby)

Present: Directors: Brian Steele (BS), John Palmer (JP), Jack Taylor (JT), Mick Hirst (MH), Alison Howard (AH), Mohammed Suleman (MS), Cllr Dave Sheppard (DS)
ASA: Donna Bushby (DB)

147/05/21 (1) **Apologies:** Al Dean.

148/05/21 (2) **Declaration of Interest**

148.1/05/21 JP declared an interest as a tenant on Barnsley Rd site.

148.2/05/21 MH declared an interest as a tenant of Avenue Rd site.

148.3/05/21 JT declared an interest as Secretary of Wood St site.

148.4/05/21 AH Declared an interest as an interim committee member of South Street.

149/05/21 (3) **Director Appointment**

149.1/05/21 The meeting was handed over to Vice Chair JP. BS application was read out. BS was then proposed by JT and seconded by MS. BS was then elected as a director under Rule 64a.

149.2/05/21 The meeting was then handed back to BS. BS then introduced Councillor Dave Sheppard who is the new RMBC – appointed director. RMBC appoint 2 directors so there is now a vacancy from them. Meeting attendees then introduced themselves to DS.

150/05/21 (4) **Minutes of Board Meeting 49 – 10th May 2021**

These were moved as a true record and duly signed (electronically) by the Chairperson.

151/05/21 (5) **Matters Arising**

None declared.

152/05/21 (6) **Administrator's Report – submitted to Director's prior to meeting. Summary:**

152.1/05/21 **Cockerels** – further complaints from Barnsley Rd and Vicarage Fields. Barnsley Rd society are taking action. Vicarage Field – on the grazing land. Working with Estates to contact the tenant as the RAA still hasn't got control over these. MH had a tenant approach him regarding not being happy about the removal of cockerels. Tenants need to be informed of the law regarding the issue and also the agreement with RMBC. Also, enforcement by RMBC has not always been followed up on a number of issues. Enforcement by the RAA should be reasonable / realistic.

152.2/05/21 **High Street** – complaint of burning onsite. Tenants have been contacted.

152.3/05/21 **Queen Street North** – owls on site. Tenant is making arrangements to remove them.

152.4/05/21 **Clifton** – report of weed growth into resident's garden – society has had a look and will deal with it. It is where the fence is missing. Having to find a new contractor to replace the fence. Also reported increased rat activity. Currently don't have pest control provided by RMBC. The pest control training of societies not being carried out at the moment. Societies could possibly fund their own training. Or invest in some non-poison mechanical traps.

152.5/05/21 **Society Newsletter** – DB has drafted a newsletter to send to society secretaries to inform them of updates.

152.6/05/21 **Al Dean** – update from son on Al's condition. Have asked if he will need to resign from the board.

152.7/05/21 **Change in RMBC Directors** – DB spoke to Emma Hoddinott who advised DS was the new RMBC – appointed director.

152.8/05/21 Request to do plot clearance – JT did not receive an email that was sent by someone who offered their services to clear plots - follow up email had been sent. This had been discussed previously and was decided that we would not be able use them at this time due to insurance purposes. Volunteers do need to be looked at for future projects. Could also look at Restorative Justice who have been working at Greasbrough. DB to contact them. Can hire toilets for sites that need them.

153/05/21 (7) Financial Matters

153.1/05/21 AH has lodged a complaint with Co Op bank as we still cannot access the account. They cannot advise if the paperwork sent has been received / processed. It was agreed that another 5 working days will be given to get a response, if not, JT and BS will visit a branch in person to try and sort it – will arrange between themselves once AH had advised any response. DS advised to have as many signatures on the account as possible to avoid future problems.

153.2/05/21 DB advised of outstanding payments due and there is nothing urgent at the moment. DB also advised that the PO Box is being changed to her details. Post has been collected recently. It was then voted and approved that we would upgrade the postal account so that any post goes direct to DB's address.

154/05/21 (8) Transfer and Transitional arrangements RMBC to RAA (including SLA)

154.1/05/21 No update – DB spoke to the solicitor's assistant last week who was going to report back. DB to email again to chase up as it is taking a long time to complete.

154.2/05/21 BS requested a meeting be set up with Andy Lee to go through outstanding issues. DB to organize.

154.3/05/21 JT has contacted HMRC regarding the charitable status application. There is a query on the registered address. It needs changing from the Broom Valley New site. DB has asked if the solicitors can allow us the use theirs. Alternatively, another address needs using. It would be beneficial that it is a separate address from directors / the ASA.

154.4/05/21 JP raised a question regarding the grazing land – Woodside. Should we be looking at changing it back into an allotment site? Is the demand there? The site is fully secure and was allotments previously. It can be marketed locally to see if there is enough demand. It was arranged for directors and DB to visit the site to assess what needs doing. A project will need setting up. Clifton site secretary has done some good work on putting together a funding bid for a disabled garden. Will be good to publicise this once completed. Discussed using local press to promote the allotments. DB also working on updating the website content.

155/05/21 (9) Society Update

DB advised that no one from Barnsley Rd society had requested any information regarding the site. BS suggested a follow up Zoom meeting is arranged to check progress.

156/05/21 (10) Maintenance

156.1/05/21 Broom Valley New Toilet floor – DB struggling to find another contractor to take a look at it. DB contacted Tim Archer regarding when it was installed. He was going to find out from the department who organised the installation to see if there was any guarantee on it. It was discussed regarding if it is insured - it was suggested it is more likely not. The society may also need to contribute to the cost.

156.2/05/21 Hartley Lane Roof – currently obtaining prices. Quote received so far was £1400 for felt and £1600 for tin. Another contractor has also been arranged to quote for it. Discussed to go for the option that will last longer.

156.3/05/21 £100k – Barnsley Rd, Avenue Rd and South Street quotes have been approved pending if the council needs more quotes. Moor Rd – finding out how much the dye testing will cost from RMBC as the flats are private land.

157/05/21 (11) Training / Access to Information

157.1/05/21 Discussed that there should be a training day to update directors on any changes in information and also train on Colony. It was suggested that the Secretary and Treasurer need to know how to access Colony. DB can also do some training in-house.

157.2/05/21 Discussed regarding arrangements for DB's annual leave next week. JT to have the mobile/laptop. It may also be possible for any calls to be forwarded to JT's mobile. DB to look into this. Emails can be accessed via the internet.

- 158/05/21** **Policy Amendment – NAS Membership**
158.1/05/21 DB contacted Liz at NAS in regard to the seed scheme for direct-managed tenants. Liz responded by saying that they are looking into it with Kings. JP expressed concern that direct-managed are being told about the seed scheme but may not necessarily be able to access it as they won't be buying in groups like societies do. Need a proper answer from NAS so it can be communicated to tenants correctly as not a benefit if not able to use it. DB to chase up with NAS for an answer before contacting tenants.
- 159/05/21** **(13) Future Meetings – online / face to face**
It was discussed that there should be a mixture of online and face to face meetings pending government advice after 21st June. Online meetings would lower petrol costs for the ASA plus the extra time required and more convenient if bad weather/winter. It should be discussed further at a future meeting in July. Need to look at if we can still use the Garden Room at Clifton Park and how much evening meetings would cost there. Could also use buildings on society sites if suitable. It was agreed that there should be a mixture of both. DB to communicate dates of all future meetings to see which can be face to face. Frequency of meetings can also change once the sub-committees have been set up.
- 160/05/21** **(14) Future Actions**
None discussed.
- 161/05/21** **(15) Any other business**
None discussed.
- 162/05/21** **(16) Agenda Items for next meeting**
- As per last meeting.
 - July – Meetings – online / face to face.
 - Future meeting – look at land what is currently not used.
 - Future meeting – Rotherham show
- 163/05/21** **(17) Date and Time of Next Meeting. (Meetings will be cancelled if not required).**
Monday 7th June 2021 at 2.00pm.

BS thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 3.45pm.



Signed (Chair)