

Rotherham Allotments Alliance

Board Meeting No.57

Held: Monday 13th September 2021

Meeting Location: Online: Zoom

(Minutes John Palmer)

Present: Directors: Brian Steele (BS) Chair, Mick Hirst (MH), Alison Howard (AH), John Palmer (JP), Alice Parry (AP), David Sheppard (DS), Mohammed Suleman (MS), Jack Taylor (JT).

256/09/21 (1) Apologies: Allotment Support Assistant – Donna Bushby (DB) on sick leave.

257/09/21 (2) Declaration of Interest

AH declared an interest as an interim committee member of South Street.

MH declared an interest as a tenant of Avenue Rd site.

JP declared an interest as a tenant on Barnsley Rd site.

AP declared an interest as an interim committee member of South Street.

MS declared an interest as a tenant of Clifton site.

JT declared an interest as secretary on Wood St site.

258/09/21 (3) Minutes of Board Meeting 56 – 16th August 2021 & Minutes of the Maintenance Sub Committee held on Tuesday 31st August 2021.

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

259/09/21 (4) Matters Arising

DS commented on the item of the Maintenance Committee relating to water conservation.

260/09/21 (5) Chairman advised on the current absence of the Allotment Support Assistant.

Discussions took place concerning the cover required during the period. The following being agreed.

- JP would retain the laptop and deal with emails etc.; also agendas and minutes.
- JT would have the phone and deal with calls and messages.
- MH would have the site keys and deal with issues relating to directly managed sites.
- AH would deal with all financial transactions – raising payments and seeking authorization from JT (first instance) or MH.

Further discussions ensued on the overall workload of the ASA and how this could be managed in the short term and possible long term solutions which would be given further consideration when the full implications were known.

261/09/21 (6) Financial Matters

Following points raised by DB (in note to Officers) email 7th September 2021.

1. Outstanding Invoices – RMBC ASA salary and Colony renewal due 1st October 2021.

2. ASA Expenses – for July and August still outstanding claims.

3. Self – Managed Societies – refund of NAS subscriptions Broom Valley Old, Clifton, Queen Street South.

4. QuickBooks – transactions from December 2019 to early 2020 still need matching up to bank statements and any recent ones accounting for. To allow reconciliation.

262/09/21 (7) Transfer and Transitional arrangements RMBC to RAA (including SLA)

Consideration was given to a previously circulated email (13/9/21) from RAA solicitor on the current position. BS agreed to contact AL (RMBC) to arrange a meeting with both RAA and RMBC solicitors along with RMBC Officer representatives and RAA Board representatives.

263/09/21 (8) Society Update

264/09/21 (9) Maintenance

1. Burkinshaws have completed work at High Street, Rawmarsh and are now working at Broom Valley Old. South Street, Avenue Road and Barnsley Road/Wet Moor Lane will follow.
2. Hedge Survey – new date to be arranged.
3. **MH/DS** to sort out camera battery charging at High Street.
4. **Moor Road** – JP circulated email received from Adam Wright (RMBC) dated 13th September 2021 informing that a dye test had been carried out to the flats soak away and this had determined that no impact on the allotment site. It was agreed to seek AW view as whether the soak away could have an impact on the allotments if it surcharges during periods of heavy and/or persistent rain.
5. **Rectory Fields** – further complaint from Resident concerning overgrown plot 8/9. Action to be decided.
6. **Barnsley Road / Wet Moor Lane** – Resident complaint fires 7th and 8th September causing nuisance (washing out and windows open. Matter reported to society to take action (email sent 14/9/21).
7. **Vicarage Field** – Resident complaint concerning cockerels creating with a nuisance with early morning crowing. Matter to be reported to society to take the necessary action to alleviate problem (email sent 14/9/21).

265/09/21 (10) NAS Membership Update

JP circulated an email received from Liz Bunting (NAS Legal and Operations Manager) dated the 7th September 2021. The email asked *‘Are RAA in a position to bring their membership on board, we have the Kings arrangements set up , all we need now are the direct let membership lists and to let us know the number of affiliates joining under the RAA membership.’* It was agreed to advise NAS of the current situation in that the directly managed membership could not be determined at the current time until their authorisation had been sought which was scheduled to take place at the same time as rental letters were being circulated.

266/09/21 Rotherham Show

Both the Chair and Councillor Sheppard thanked all those who assisted over the weekend in publicising the RAA.

267/09/21 Sub Committees

The minutes of the Maintenance Committee held on the 31st August 2021 were agreed as true record. It was agreed that future sub-committee meeting would be suspended for the time being.

268/09/21 (11) Future Actions

The Board would meet on a fortnightly basis. With Officers - Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer meeting on alternate Mondays.

269/09/21 (12) Any Other Business

253.01 JT raised concerns over the wording of the Grazing Licences – agreed agenda item for next meeting.

270/09/21 (13) Agenda Items for next meeting

- Grazing Licenses

271/09/21 (14) Date and Time of Next Meeting. (Meetings will be cancelled if not required).

Monday 27th September at 2.00pm

BS thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 3.30pm.



Signed (Chair)