

## Rotherham Allotments Alliance

# Board Meeting No.58

**Held:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Meeting Location:** Online: Zoom

(Minutes John Palmer)

**Present:** Directors: Brian Steele (BS) Chair, Mick Hirst (MH), John Palmer (JP), David Sheppard (DS), Jack Taylor (JT).

**272/09/21** **(1) Apologies:** Allotment Support Assistant – Donna Bushby (DB) on sick leave, Alice Parry (AP). (Alison Howard (AH), Mohammed Suleman (MS) no contact – zoom meeting joining difficulties initially!)

**273/09/21** **(2) Declaration of Interest**  
MH declared an interest as a tenant of Avenue Rd site.  
JP declared an interest as a tenant on Barnsley Rd site.  
JT declared an interest as secretary on Wood St site.

**274/09/21** **(3) Minutes of Board Meeting 57 – 13th September 2021.**  
These were moved as a true record and duly signed (electronically) by the Chairperson.

**275/09/21** **(4) Matters Arising**  
Items arising covered under other agenda items.

**276/09/21** **(5) Chairman advised on the current absence of the Allotment Support Assistant.**  
Chair (BS) advised that ASA was intending to return to work in the very near future. It was agreed that BS/JP would conduct a return to work interview as soon as practical following return, to discuss and determine, workload and alternative methods which would assist in relieving overall pressures. JT would continue to deal with all telephone queries.

**277/09/21** **(6) Financial Matters**  
In the absence of the Treasurer the following items are still to be determined if resolved:-  
**1. Outstanding Invoices** – RMBC ASA salary; Colony renewal due 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021; Banner; Zoom.  
**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. Key deposit refund** – previous tenant of plot 1a Lowfield Ave.  
**5. QuickBooks** – transactions from December 2019 to early 2020 still need matching up to bank statements and any recent ones accounting for. To allow reconciliation.  
**Chair (BS)** – agreed to contact AH to determine current situation.

**278/09/21** **(7) Transfer and Transitional arrangements RMBC to RAA (including SLA)**  
Consideration was given to a previously circulated email (27/9/21) from RAA solicitor on the current position. It was agreed that (JP) would forward a copy to AL seeking RMBC position on the points raised (*forwarded copy to AL 28/9/21*).

**279/09/21** **(8) Society Update**  
**1. Barnsley Road/Wet Moor Lane** – have taken action to remind all tenants of rules regarding fire and have spoken to individuals concerning 7/8<sup>th</sup> sept incidents.  
**2. Vicarage Fields** – cockerel complaint reported to secretary. He indicates that there are other cockerels in the vicinity. He is investigating and will report back.  
**3. Queen St North** – new committee elected 19/9/21 – have requested contacted details. New secretary been in touch with JT who will request all new committee details.  
**4. Broom Valley Old** – communication from tenant concerning incident that society committee have been investigating and have now issued results to those involved. This tenant not happy with

the outcome. Agreed tenant should be advised to place appeal with society committee in the first instance. Right to appeal to RAA could then follow dependent on the outcome.

#### **279/09/21a Directly Managed Sites**

- a. **St Leonard's** – tenant of plot 7 requires key for shed door – previous tenant to return.
- b. **Lowfield Avenue** – request from Ward Councilor Robert Elliot for Board to re-consider its decision not to erect fence to replace trees removed. Board reiterated its previous decision it not being the responsibility of RAA to provide a fence. Chair (BS) to communicate this Ward Councilor.
- c. **Scrooby St** – report from resident advising that previously removed vine is growing back and requires attention.
- d. **Scrooby St** – MH meeting with representative of Restorative Justice on 4/10/21.
- e. **Scrooby St** – MH met with two prospective new tenants – difficulties in determine if plots concerned are actually available and no keys for distribution. To resolve before tenancies can be agreed.
- f. **Ash Tree** – large section fallen – section overhangs allotment with risk of falling on site - this tree is outside the perimeter fence on Fitzwilliam Estates land – (reported to Fitzwilliam Estates 29/9/21)
- g. **Waiting Lists** – question raised ‘how many waiting lists could a person be on’ – Board feel that there should be no limit if it gives the applicant a greater opportunity to become a plot holder and they are willing to travel to the successful site.
- h. **Paddock Land Clough Bank** – query – Board not aware of any in this vicinity.

#### **280/09/21 (9) Maintenance**

1. Burkinshaws have completed work at High Street, Rawmarsh and Broom Valley Old. South Street, Avenue Road and Barnsley Road/Wet Moor Lane will follow. Broom Valley Old society have raised concerns with regard to work done and safety issues. It was agreed that MH and AP would arrange to meet with society representatives.
2. Hedge Survey – new date to be arranged.
3. **Camera Batteries** – agreed need to obtain spare set of batteries to allow changing to be completed on one visit.
4. **Rectory Fields** – further complaint from Resident concerning overgrown plot 8/9. Action to be decided.

#### **281/09/21 (10) NAS Membership Update**

JP advised he had communicated minute no 265/09/21 to NAS – ‘*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*’. No acknowledgement received to date.

#### **282/09/21 (11) Grazing Licences**

Consideration was given to form of grazing licence required for Woodside, where interest had been shown. It was agreed that the following points needed investigation and a form of tenancy agreement devised when details known.

- What is the recommended area of land required per horse/pony? To enable the number allowed to be stipulated within the document. (*Minimum one horse/pony per acre – RSPCA 29/9/21*).
- Is there a legal requirement to have some form of shelter for the horses/ponies? (*Must be provision for shelter from sun/wind/extreme weather and temperature – RSPCA 29/9/21*).
- Seek RMBC position with regard to grazing land – whilst included in the new lease – no information has been passed from RMBC Estates concerning the current situation of the sites. (*Email to AL – RMBC – 29/9/21*).

#### **283/09/21 (12) Future Actions**

The Board would meet on a fortnightly basis for the time being.

#### **284/09/21 (13) Any Other Business**

**285/09/21 (14) Agenda Items for next meeting**

- Grazing Licenses

**286/09/21 (15) Date and Time of Next Meeting. (Meetings will be cancelled if not required).**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm

BS thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 4.05pm.



Signed ..... (Chair)