

Rotherham Allotments Alliance

Maintenance Committee Meeting No.1

On Meeting Date: Tuesday 31st August 2021

Meeting Location: Online: Zoom

Meeting Called By: Brian Steele

Chair: Brian Steele

Secretary: Jack Taylor (Minutes Donna Bushby)

Present: Directors: Brian Steele (BS), Jack Taylor (JT), Mick Hirst (MH) and Allotment Support Assistant – Donna Bushby (DB).

M001/08/21 (1) Apologies: Alice Parry

M002/08/21 (2) Site Maintenance

M002.1/08/21 Plot Clearances – It was discussed and decided that we would concentrate on one site to begin with – confirmed as Rectory Field. A date of Tuesday 14th September was set for directors to see how long it would take to clear plots. Will need to get the equipment from RMBC. Still have the issue of storage of the equipment. JT to email Andy Lee to ask for permission to use the storage container on that site. Alliance to look at purchasing it's own storage container to be placed on the Rectory Field site once RMBC move the one that is on there currently.

M002.2/08/21 Hedge Cutting survey – this had not yet been done so arranged for Tuesday 7th September with JT / DB. DB to email Neil Archer to ask if RMBC are available as well.

M003/08/21 (3) Volunteers

M003.1/08/21 Restorative Justice – Need to look at other sites where this service can be used. The RAA will provide toilet facilities that do not have them. DB to contact the Community Pay back service to arrange a schedule. Was discussed about possibly using this service on the Woodside site. However, as there is interest from someone wanting to rent the site, this will mean that the site gets cleared by them. It will be on a 12-month contract for £1500 per year. This income can then be set aside to develop the site in the future.

M003.2/08/21 Voluntary Action – DB to register the RAA on this service to see if attracts any interest.

M004/08/21 (4) Outstanding Maintenance Issues

M004.1/08/21 Pest Control – It was discussed to get the nominated people trained up to deliver their own pest control on their sites. It was also discussed about having 1 or 2 directors to deliver this on the direct-managed sites that currently have provision. BS and MH have put themselves forward for this. The RAA will purchase the bait and boxes and it will be done every 5 weeks approx.

M004.2/08/21 Grass / Hedge Cutting Contract – it was discussed that this should be put out to tender to see if a better service / better value for money could be obtained. DB reported that she had spoken to York allotments who currently pay £15,000 per year for 15 sites.

M004.3/08/21 Trees – a number of trees need some attention. Most urgent is the one at Vicarage Fields which recently damaged a resident's shed. DB to contact the company who did the Lowfield Avenue tree work to ask for a quote. Needs to be done as a priority to avoid further damage.

M005/08/21 (5) Projects

M005.1/08/21 Water Conservation - It was suggested about looking at water-saving projects. Discussed regarding tenants having water butts but these may end up being filled with tap water, rather than run off from sheds etc. It was decided that this would not be a viable project for the moment, however, DB to contact Yorkshire Water to see if they can help with anything.

M006/08/21 (6) Equipment / Storage

M006.1/08/21 As discussed in previous points.

M006.2/08/21 It was suggested that we need to look at purchasing a heavy-duty tool to be able to cut locks off if required. DB has already purchased some spanners, screwdrivers and a small bolt cutter.

The meeting was closed at 3.15pm.



Signed (Chair)