

Rotherham Allotments Alliance

Maintenance Committee Meeting No.5

On Meeting Date: Monday 9th May 2022

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), Tess Sheen (TS) and Allotment Support Assistant – Donna Bushby (DB).

M036/05/22 (1) Apologies: Alice Parry and Cllr Rachel Hughes

M037/05/22 (2) Minutes from previous meeting – 14th March 2022
Moved as a true record by MH and duly signed by the chairperson.

M038/05/22 (3) Matters Arising
Moor Rd Gates – DB to chase up with SY Police Legal dept to see if any progress has been made on the claim.

M039/05/22 (4) Rectory Field / Restorative Justice – update

- a) DB reported that the grab-wagon had been but not all the waste fitted in – about 2/3 of pile gone. Will need 2 more possibly to remove it all. Waste company has done a good job on left hand side of site. Still lots of non-burnable rubbish to remove from it. It was discussed regarding the options to clear this – arrange a day of directors to volunteer or pay for the waste company to do it. All depends on the cost of further skips etc. to see what the best way forward would be. It was stated that the rubbish would need to be cleared in its entirety to deter further fly-tipping. Plus, the area would need surfacing to avoid it being over-grown again. DB to do a small report on costs etc.
- b) Community Payback can go back to Greasbrough and work on a few plots there – DB has sent them a plan and map of what needs doing. They have said that they might not be able to go to other sites but DB will ask again.
- c) It was added that a small number of rat bait boxes had been put on the site due to complaints of rats from tenants and the waste contractor. These will be monitored but should hopefully better once the waste has gone.

M040/05/22 (5) Rectory Fields – resident walls on plot 1
Tenant reported that the stone boundary wall is collapsing into the plot. DB, MH and BS went to have a look at it. It was established that the responsibility of the wall falls with the residents but they have put fences in front of the wall which obstructs being able to see it. It was discussed that DB should draft a letter to the residents to ask them to rectify the damage to the wall as it poses a health and safety risk on the allotment site.

M041/05/22 (6) Pest Control - update

- a) DB and MH sorted 50% of the schedule out last week. High St and Rosehill Park have had their first visit. Was discovered that the council service would give tenants loose poison in open containers which is a health and safety risk. This meant extra boxes were given out. Extra keys are also needed. Any tenants on site were told of the new procedure. MH to do the other 2 sites next week and DB to arrange distributing poison to the sites who have had the training. It was discussed changing the type of poison periodically. It was also discussed with giving sites the option to have snap traps instead of poison.
- b) AP sent a comment regarding environmental surveys, risk assessments and COSHH information for pest control. DB has found this information online and will distribute to the sites and trained representatives. MH stated that environmental surveys are covered in the training. All sites will be given safety information and PPE.

M042/05/22 (7) Other works – special projects

- a) Paths – DB has not heard from Burkinshaws regarding Avenue Rd – will chase up.
- b) Moor Rd Drainage – RMBC Drainage Officer had another look at the site and has located a land drain that needs re-establishing. Quote of £2450 been given to locate exact site of drain and lay new sections to connect it to the ditch at the side. Did advise that the problem wouldn't be solved 100% due to the locality of the watercourse nearby. Directors agreed for this work to take place and DB to get dates arranged.
- c) Plot numbers – DB needs to collect these then dates need to be sorted to put them on sites.

M043/05/22 (8) Any Other Business

- a) Wood St – JT reported that the electric pylon work had been completed but the contractors have not replaced a fence that was taken down. Also, the pile of rubbish that had been created is now being fly-tipped on further. JT to contact the contractor to chase up the remedial work that needs doing. Also, the Neighbourhood Co-Ordinator has got the shed security packs. Has arranged for them to be dropped off. JT will arrange with the other 2 sites to drop them off also.
- b) Avenue Rd – a skip is required for this site. May be looked into for the Ward councillors to match fund for a larger skip to be placed on the site. there is a pile of waste at the bottom that needs moving. Also, tenant has reported an overgrown hedge which is blocking light to their plot. The hedge in question is on an untenanted plot. DB and BS to have a look at it and decide plan of action.
- c) Asbestos – still piles of asbestos on various sites that needs removing. DB to contact the asbestos company to find out when they can remove it.
- d) Psalters Lane – break-in reported to JT. Tenant thinks they were wrongly targeted – thinks the plot next door is using it for criminal activity. DB to find out who the local PCSO is.
- e) AP sent a note regarding representatives in charge of volunteers being DBS checked. This was discussed in a prior meeting and decided that it was not necessary. For example, if a group with children, i.e. scouts, were being used, the scout leader would be DBS checked and in other cases, the children would be supervised by a parent or guardian.

M044/05/22 (9) Agenda Items for Next Meeting
TBC

M045/05/22 (10) Date of Next Meeting
Monday 47th July 2022.

BS thanked everyone who attended and the meeting was closed at 3.00pm.



Signed (Chair)