

Rotherham Allotments Alliance

Maintenance Committee Meeting No.6

On Meeting Date: Monday 4th July 2022

Meeting Location: Online: Zoom

Meeting Called By: Brian Steele

Chair: Brian Steele

Secretary: Jack Taylor (Minutes Donna Bushby)

Present: Directors: Brian Steele (BS), Mick Hirst (MH), Tess Sheen (TS) and Allotment Support Assistant – Donna Bushby (DB).

M045/07/22 (1) Apologies: Cllr Rachel Hughes and Jack Taylor

M046/07/22 (2) Minutes from previous meeting – 9th May 2022
Moved as a true record by MH and duly signed by the chairperson.

M047/07/22 (3) Matters Arising
None discussed.

M048/07/22 (4) Rectory Field / Restorative Justice – update
a) Majority of waste has now been removed. Had 2 grab-wagons with a 3rd booked for Friday 8th July. This should clear all the area. Discussed regarding what to do with the area. It was agreed to turn it into a car park. The area will need raking level then hardcore adding. DB to ask if tenants would help to distribute the hardcore. Discussed regarding putting signs up to deter fly-tipping. Toilet has now been removed from the site

M049/07/22 (5) Pest Control Update
a) Had reports that the bags are not being touched by rats. These are to be opened in the box and loose poison ordered for future use.
b) Due to MH injury, DB will advise tenants regarding a delay to this month's pest control visit. New date to be confirmed.
c) Tenant on High Street to be asked if they want to do the pest control training for that site.
d) DB has been approved to do the pest control training to help if any cover is needed.

M050/07/22 (6) Other works – special projects
a) Paths – Burkinshaws have been in touch and said they will give a further update about Avenue Rd. Other sites (South Street & Barnsley Rd) still need to confirm if path works are still required. Need to get the £100k work completed as soon as possible. MH advised that he spoke to a committee member at Barnsley Rd to offer support on this.
b) Moor Rd – still waiting for a date from RMBC. Need to visit the site to look at current condition – not had as much rain so should be fairly dry.
c) Plot Numbers – BS and DB to finish.
d) Waste Removal – 17 sites have had skips to date. Discussed looking at a waste removal project next year. 2 sites that have most dumped waste are Lowfield Ave and Greasbrough. Would need Community Payback to clear Lowfield Avenue. Greasbrough has got a few new tenants so they may need a skip as they have taken on skips that are fly-tipped. A lot of plots being let at the minute do have waste on which needs removing. Further work is needed to remind tenants not to bring items onto the allotment. A lot of it is down to the council not enforcing the rules. Inspections are being done soon so this will identify where the problems are. Also need to be stricter on enforcing cultivation and removing tenants who don't cultivate.
e) Wood St – JT has had a response from Northern Power Grid who have said they will put the fence back up in September but won't remove the waste as it was there already. The fence being down is encouraging more fly-tipping. Jack has emailed Cllr Wyatt and DB is arranging a site visit to look at how to improve the area.

M051/07/22 Any Other Business

- a) Rectory Fields resident wall – question asked regarding progress. DB has spoken to one of the residents who was going to repair their section. Not heard anything else from the tenant. Wouldn't be possible to take the wall down as it belongs to the residents and would be expensive to do. Tenant could use any stones from it on the allotment, to make it safe. It would be beneficial to take photos once a year to see if there are any changes to it and making the residents aware.
- b) Lowfield Avenue – RMBC have agreed for fence to be put up for the resident who has complained that their garden has been left vulnerable. The boundary is the resident's responsibility but RMBC have agreed to pay for it.
- c) Moor Rd – been reimbursed for the cost (£480) of the gate repair from SY Police.
- d) Need to look at the other items that were on the 'wish-lists'. Directors need to have a look at the list to decide which works to complete. Includes items such as rotten shed doors. Will still need to prioritise health and safety and plot clearance works. Lowfield Avenue does need major clearance works. Still offering a rent reduction incentive to those who can clear plots off themselves. DB to send the list to directors for consideration.
- e) Question asked regarding letting tenants know what days the inspections are being done. It was suggested that this would hinder the process. Inspections to stay at once a year for now but further inspections will be done on those who needed work to be done. 30 days-notice to cultivate or terminate will be given as most sites have waiting lists. Requested that vacant plots and waitlists are presented at the next board meeting.

M052/07/22 (8) Agenda Items for Next Meeting

TBC

M053/07/22 (9) Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 30th August 2022 to be confirmed at the Monday is the Bank Holiday.

BS thanked everyone who attended and the meeting was closed at 2.45pm.



Signed (Chair)