

Rotherham Allotments Alliance

Maintenance Committee Meeting No.7

On Meeting Date: Monday 5th September 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), John Palmer (JP) and Allotment Support Assistant – Donna Bushby (DB).

M054/09/22 (1) Apologies: Cllr Rachel Hughes

M055/09/22 (2) Minutes from previous meeting – 4th July 2022
Moved as a true record by MH and duly signed by the chairperson.

M056/09/22 (3) Matters Arising
None identified.

M057/09/22 (4) Rectory Field / Restorative Justice – update

- a) Community Payback are back on the site to finish of the previously cleared area.
- b) There are also working on Greasbrough and have taken a plot on there. The supervisor has also been shown Lowfield Avenue but the main issues with this site are the lack of shelter and no water supply.
- c) It was explained that JP is in the meeting as chair of the finance sub-committee due to the finance requirements of the projects being discussed. Projects will then ratified at the next board meeting.

M058/09/22 (5) Other works / Special Projects / Outstanding Issues

- a) Moor Rd – DB met with a local drainage contractor with a view to getting another quote. This has not been received, despite chasing it up. MH met with the contractor who did the ditch to discuss the works. DB to chase them up. Local contractor suggested to have two French drains on either side of the path which are then channeled up to the ditch at the back. The contractor did say that the back ditch wasn't very deep. Also discussed regarding the grounds work and the Mare's Tail. Quotes have been obtained and circulated to directors prior to the meeting. Discussed regarding not weed-killing if the plots have been cut back. It was suggested that the plots should be cut down, with a view to new tenants digging them over, or covering them up, then weed killing early next year if required. It was further discussed regarding the difficulty in removing Mare's Tail and when the best time would be to weed kill it, i.e. when actively growing, and not waste the funds if it is not effective, plus working with the existing tenants on this. Directors approved the clearance work and the cheapest quote was selected. DB to arrange. Further work would be available to the contractor if a good job is done.
- b) South Street – shed doors. Obtained one quote without fitting. DB also requested Hibbards to quote. It was stated that it wasn't practical to order doors without fitting.
- c) Greasbrough – toilet door and window. Tenant was insisting they would fix it but not been done yet. DB was stating she was struggling to find contractors with availability but would try again.
- d) Rosehill Tap – awaiting plumber to get back from holiday.
- e) Lowfield Avenue – DB reported some recent interest in the site. Approx. 7 plots that need clearing although overall site condition is poor and complaints have been received from a resident regarding overgrown trees. One plot also gets flooded. Some residents also have gate access to the allotments from their gardens. It was stated that these residents need to be contacted to advise them that they need blocking up as they don't have a right of access. Directors were shown the photos from the recent plot inspections to see the condition of the plots. It was suggested that if the work on Moor Rd is done to a good standard, the contractor could be offered the work to clear this site. Discussed regarding what work needs doing and how to maintain the condition. One suggestion was turning it into grazing land allowing goats etc. It may also be beneficial to reduce the size of the plots to make them more manageable for tenants. This would help with the

lack of water on site. Could also offer incentives such as putting up small sheds / providing water butts if funding can be obtained. Site also has difficulty for access due to narrow road. A site visit by directors was suggested.

- f) Broom Valley New – boundary fencing. DB obtained quote from Prinforde for gravel boards and panels or wire mesh fencing. Also priced up materials for site to do the labour. Agreed that it would be more practical to have a professional job done as it is a boundary fence. Directors agreed the quote for wire mesh fencing to be installed.
- g) *For the purpose of the minutes, JP then left the meeting..*

M059/09/22 (6) Pest Control Update

- a) BS and DB to do this month's visits. St Leonard's is going to be added to the schedule. DB reported that Rectory Field also needs more provision as the rat problem has been reported by a tenant. DB to contact tenants to ask if they want a bait box or trap. The site will then be added to the schedule. Rosehill Park also needs more boxes.
- b) MH advised he had given more bait to Queen Street South. Discussed regarding the amount of poison being used and encouraging sites not to over bait.
- c) 2 sites who wanted training still not had their bait. DB to chase up with secretaries.

M060/09/22 (7) Any Other Business

- a) Wood St – tenant has had plot vandalised / produce stolen. Directors discussed regarding installing wildlife cameras. It was agreed to purchase 2 cameras and DB to contact the tenant to see if they want to put one on their plot. It was suggested one could be used on another site monitor the gates as they are being left open.
- b) Locks – DB got quotes for new lock sets – approx. £190 for 3 locks and 40 keys. High Street to be rekeyed as soon as possible. Tenants who haven't paid a deposit will need to pay £5 for one. The lock set from High St can then be moved to another site. DB showed directors on screen the lock distribution across the sites. Ordering the locks was approved by directors. Locks sets on other sites will also be looked at.
- c) It was suggested to have a site meeting on Lowfield Avenue for directors to see the condition of the site. This was arranged for before the board meeting on Monday.
- d) DB has priced up hi-vis vests. To be purchased for when directors are on site.

M061/09/22

(8) Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Updates on items discussed today.

M062/09/22 (9) Date of Next Meeting

Board Meeting – Monday 12th September

Maintenance Meeting - Monday 24th October

BS thanked everyone who attended and the meeting was closed at 3.15pm.



Signed (Chair)