

Rotherham Allotments Alliance

Maintenance Committee Meeting No.9

On Meeting Date: Monday 30th January 2023

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

M072/01/23 (1) Apologies: Cllr Rachel Hughes, Mick Hirst

M073/01/23 (2) Minutes from previous meeting – 24th October 2022
Moved as a true record by JT and duly signed by the chairperson.

M074/01/23 (3) Matters Arising

- None identified from minutes.
- Greasbrough toilet – needs new cistern. DB will arrange when water goes back on.

M075/01/23 (4) Rectory Field / Greasbrough - Restorative Justice - update

- a) DB reported that Community Payback are currently working on the plots that belong to the neurodiversity plots and will resume work for the RAA when the work gets better. Work to be completed – remove remaining rubbish from top plots and lay car park surface.
- b) The rubbish from the neurodiversity plots has been placed on the parking area so a skip needs providing to remove it asap as other tenants are adding to it. It was discussed that waste still needs to be sorted and burnable wood be kept separate and not go in the skip.
- c) Greasbrough – Community Payback currently working on their plot and also clearing plots 37a / 39b. Again, needs skips to remove the non-burnable waste.

M076/01/23 (5) Rectory Field Shed

- a) This item was brought up at the last finance meeting in regard to what is going to happen to the shed. Options are leave it in place for the community groups to use, move it to a site that needs clearance work, depending on cost / feasibility, move it to a society site that needs a shed or sell it. The shed is not secure enough to use for storage. It was decided that the shed would remain in place for the time being as there is still some work for Community Payback to do on the site.

M077/01/23 (6) Other Works / Special Projects / Outstanding issues

- a) Moor Rd – French drain and clearance work has been completed. Contractor been back to re-quote for the path drain works - £1550. Have asked for a map of which plots it would affect so the plot holders can be contacted. May require compensation if lose cultivating space.
- b) South Street shed doors – being made. Left it with site secretary to arrange fitting.
- c) Avenue Rd – left hand paths completed. 1 complaint regarding tenant not being able to open gate fully. Contractor will sort if required. Have contacted local councillor regarding the CIL fund to see if funding can be sought for the other path.
- d) Hartley Lane / Vicarage Field trees – work booked in for 7th / 8th February.
- e) Plot clearances – DB to source quotes for High Street (2 plots), Lowfield Ave (5 plots) and Wood St (area at bottom).

M078/01/23 (7) Pest Control

- a) DB has produced a master sheet to make recording easier. Will use on next visit – 7th February.
- b) Concern was expressed that not enough poison was being put out on sites for it to be effective.
- c) DB has purchased a brush / scraper to remove spent poison and will find out where waste poison can be taken to.

M079/01/23 (8) Any Other Business

- a) It was discussed regarding the draft annual report for 2022 and the addition of the tree planting project which will be taking place at Wood St.
- b) Woodside – it was observed that the site is looking a lot clearer but no shelter was present. This needs to be followed up.
- c) Issue regarding fly-tipping of tyres on Wood St site. Plot has been re-let to new tenants and equipment / materials associated with growing illegal plants was discovered. The ex-tenant of the plot has enquired about another site in the area so the secretary has been given caution in giving them a plot. The people observed doing the fly-tipping had also enquired about a plot but have not been offered one. They have been identified by RMBC but the person who has the evidence of the fly-tipping is reluctant to become a witness, due to possible repercussions. The society will have to foot the cost of the tyre removal.
- d) Sites have been asking for the annual skips to be booked in. These do need to be better managed to ensure that they are being used properly. It was discussed regarding it being difficult to police what is being put in, unless they are monitored when on site. The main issue is the educating of tenants in bringing items onto their plots, what they need to burn and also composting organic materials where possible. Would also need to look at supplying skips for tenants to coincide when projects are being done on sites. This would reduce costs.
- e) The grass and hedge cutting needs to be re-tendered and prices obtained from RMBC. Some sites need remeasuring due to paths being put in place.

(9) Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Updates on this meeting.

M071/10/22 (10) Date of Next Meeting

Board Meeting – Monday 6th February

Maintenance Meeting - Monday 20th February

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



Signed (Chair)