

Rotherham Allotments Alliance

Board Meeting No.77

Held: Monday 17th April 2023

Meeting Location: Garden Room, Clifton Park, Online via Zoom

(Minutes John Palmer)

Present (in person): Directors: Brian Steele (BS) Chair, Mick Hirst (MH), Sue Jackson (SJ), John Palmer (JP), Tess Sheen (TS), Cllr Dave Sheppard (DS), Jack Taylor (JT).

Present (via Zoom):

225/04/23 (1) Apologies: Cllr Rachel Hughes (RH), (Mohammed Suleman (MS).

226/04/23 (2) Declaration of Interest

JP declared an interest as a tenant on Barnsley Rd site.

JT declared an interest as secretary on Wood St site.

MH declared an interest as a tenant on Avenue Rd site.

TS declared an interest as a tenant on Avenue Road site.

SJ declared an interest as a tenant on Rectory Fields site.

227/04/23 (3) Minutes of previous Board Meeting – 20th March 2023.

These were moved as a true record by JT and duly signed (electronically) by the Chairperson.

228/04/23 (4) Matters Arising

a) 216/03/23 e) query concerning waiting lists.

b) 220/03/23 h) query concerning community payback completion of works to car park – agreed to arrange a meeting with representatives to agree date to complete.

229/04/23 (5) Admin report

a) High St – complaint about fires. (Chair to contact Ward councillor).

b) Woodside – grazing site – existing tenant has relinquished tenancy following previously reported incident (min no 216/03/23(a)) due to ‘contamination of ground’.

c) Scrooby St – volunteer tenant to obtain vermin control certificate – being pursued.

d) Rectory Field and Moor Road – a number of tenancy changes.

e) St Leonards – possible tree issue being investigated.

f) Various lock/key issues – agreed that the quality of locks would be investigated to determine if more robust options were available.

g) Avenue Road – inspection to be completed in relation to cockerel’s complaint and RMBC Enforcement Officers request for details of plots involved.

h) ‘Rotherfed’ – RAA interested noted and will provide more information when available.

i) NAS – RAA affiliation current position to be determined.

230/04/23 (6) Financial Matters

a) Current account @ 17.4.23 - £51,725.30

Reserve Account @ 17.4.23 - £27,738,22

b) Arrangements have been made for a number of tenants to pay their rentals in accordance with the Hardship Policy.

c) In pursuit of final rental payments – termination letters now sent to those outstanding.

d) Issues with QuickBooks and its ability to interface with bank accounts.

231/04/23 (7) Transfer and Transitional arrangements RMBC to RAA (including SLA)

a) Our solicitor raised concerns over time scale and apparent RMBC issues in resolving some land ownership issues.

b) Chair updated on current position relating to replacement ASA. There were also problems with final RMBC invoice relating to ASA final payments.

c) Questioned raised following NAS meeting minutes where Sandymount Road issue was raised.

d) It was agreed that a meeting with RMBC would be arranged to discuss the current issues.

232/04/23

(8) Society Update

- a) Society Forum will be held on Tuesday 16th May 2013 at 6.30pm in the Unity Centre. Consideration was given to items to be included on the agenda - Shareholder information; livestock on allotments - Officer to finalise.
- b) IBC provision for water storage – YWA to be contacted.
- c) It was noted that the NAS AGM and conference was to be held on Saturday 10th June 2023, woodland Grange Leamington Spa.
- d) South Street door issue resolved with contractor.

233/04/23

(9) Maintenance

- a) Wharf Road – grass cutting schedule query – awaiting RMBC to provide update Grass cutting schedule.
- b) Avenue Road – new lock fitted due to break-in.
- c) Skips – requests from Clifton (agreed) – St Leonards (under consideration).
- d) Rectory Fields – arrangements being made for Community Payback to complete a further day of clearance work. Arrangements then to be made for surfacing car park area with road planings.
- e) Moor Road drainage work – awaiting contractor advising on start date – when known all tenants will be notified.
- f) High Street – vermin issues.
- g) Sites to be advised of Vermin control arrangements where RAA volunteers complete the work.

234/04/23

(10) AGM

- a) Draft minutes of the AGM held on the 28th March 2023 were circulated prior to the meeting for consideration.

235/04/23

(11) Policies

Following Approval at the 2023 AGM all policy changes and amendments were approved and adopted by the Board and would now updated copies would now be included on the website.

236/04/23

(12) Business Plan 2023

- a) Consideration was given to the previously circulated copy of the 2023 Business Plan.
- b) It was agreed that in future Business Plans site statistics would include current RAA figures year on year with comparative details of the RMBC at time of handover.

237/04/23

(13) Any Other Business

Chair thanked Officers and other Directors for their efforts during this period without as ASA.

238/04/23

(14) Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Press media policy for consideration

239/04/23

(15) Date of Next Meeting

Board – 22nd May 2023 – 1pm – Clifton Park Garden Room

BS thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 4.10pm.



Signed (Chair)