

Rotherham Allotments Alliance

Board Meeting No.78

Held: Monday 22nd May 2023

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

(Minutes John Palmer)

Present (in person): Directors: Brian Steele (BS) Chair, Mick Hirst (MH), John Palmer (JP), Cllr Dave Sheppard (DS), Mohammed Suleman (MS), Jack Taylor (JT).

Andy Lee (AL) attended the meeting in relation to item 8 only.

Present (via Zoom):

- 240/05/23 (1) Apologies:** Sue Jackson (SJ), Tess Sheen (TS).
Chair advised that RMBC appointed Director Cllr Rachel Hughes had advised that she had tendered her resignation to RMBC. RMBC would look to fill the vacancy at the earliest opportunity.
- 241/05/23 (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.
MS declared an interest as a tenant on Clifton site.
- 242/05/23 (3) Minutes of previous Board Meeting – 17th April 2023.**
These were moved as a true record by JT and duly signed (electronically) by the Chairperson.
- 243/05/23 (4) Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.
- 244/05/23 (5) Admin report**
- a) Water – meter reading taken and submitted for Barnsley Road.
 - b) St Leonards request to add netting cover to boundary fence, Directors considered this request and it was unanimously rejected. Also noted that a plot had encroached onto the car park area.
 - c) RMBC reported hose pipes across paths when grass cutting taking place - all society sites notified to keep paths clear.
 - d) Freedom of info request for allotment statistics.
 - e) Arrangements being made for removal of asbestos from Scrooby St, Wood St and Clifton.
 - f) Herringthorpe Valley Road – agreed to include on vermin control programme following report of severe rat infestation.
 - g) Rectory Fields – rubbish removal pending completion of car park.
 - h) Dealt with numerous applications for plots and chasing of outstanding rental payments and re-allocations of plots following terminations across all directly managed sites.
 - i) NovaCity Allotment enquiries – email 19/5/23 (previously circulated).
 - j) Avenue Road – RMBC Enforcement taking action against tenants with cockerels following complaints.
- 245/05/23 (6) Financial Matters**
- a) No financial information was available due the absence of the Treasurer.
 - b) A budget update would be presented to the next Board meeting if possible.
- 246/05/23 (7) Maintenance**
- a) Moor Road drainage work – a meeting is to be arranged with the contractor to determine the work required and obtain quotations.
 - b) High Street – tree issue Chair to meet Council representatives on site.
 - c) Wood Street – proposal from Councillor Wyatt for a small nature reserve at this site. Further information being sought.
 - d) Rectory Fields – car park area weed killed.
 - e) Scrooby Street – previous unlettable plot area clearance – skip requested.

- 247/0523 (8) Transfer and Transitional arrangements RMBC to RAA (including SLA)**
- a) Replacement of ASA. Consideration by the RAA appointments panel (BS; JT; SJ) of the current internal applicant to be carried out to determine if meeting the criteria or not.
 - b) AL advised that the outstanding RMBC billing for ASA final payments from RAA still to be resolved.
 - c) AL advised that RMBC Estates section dealing with outstanding land registration issues. RAA had solicitor raised concerns over time scale and apparent RMBC issues in resolving these land registration issues.
 - d) Details of grazing licenses had still not been received by RAA. AL agreed to chase Estates Section RMBC.
 - e) AL advised on the current status of the Housing development at Wath which would result in Sandymount Road becoming a council owned site. RAA re-affirmed its position to accept this site for allotment purposes at a time when non-allotment activity was curtailed.

- 248/05/23 (9) Society Update**
- a) Society Forum held on Tuesday 16th May 2013, Unity Centre. Draft notes of the meeting were considered. The following points were discussed:-
 - 1) Shareholder information from Societies – only Hartley Lane and Herringthorpe Valley Road had not yet supplied the required information. Wood St had supplied the information but not yet on colony.
 - 2) Skip provision – need for societies to monitor materials placed in skips during the skips presence on site. Skip company have been requested to provide details of what materials can be placed in a skip.
 - 3) Site security – replacement of locks and keys. MH advised on more robust and secure types of lock. The options available would increase the cost considerably. It was agreed by the Board that the current type of lock and key system would continue. Where societies requested lock and key changes to improve security they would be requested to make 50% contribution towards the cost and the society should consider a deposit scheme for keys.
 - 4) Barnsley Road / Wet Moor Lane – re-surfacing of paths - society to be requested to provide details of paths to be completed and approximate amount of material required.
 - 5) Vicarage Fields – fence damage. Date of incident and photo evidence to be obtained and RAA will then contact Fitzwilliam Estates.
 - b) South Street request for RAA representation at their committee meeting to be held on 29th May 2023. MH volunteered to attend.

- 249/05/23 (10) Media and Press Policy**
- Consideration was given to a previously circulated draft policy. Agreed to add item concerning confidentiality of certain agenda items that would require press/public exclusion. Further draft copy to next Board meeting.

- 250/05/23 (11) Any Other Business**
- Wood Street – options for tyre removal from a plot were considered.

- 251/05/23 (12) Agenda Items for Next Meeting**
- Non raised.

- 252/05/23 (13) Date of Next Meeting**
- Board – 12th June 2023 – 1pm – Clifton Park Garden Room

BS thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 4.00pm.



Signed (Chair)