

Rotherham Allotments Alliance

Board Meeting No.81

Held: Monday 21st August 2023

Meeting Location: Garden Room, Clifton Park, Online via Zoom
(Minutes John Palmer)

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

The Chair thanked Directors for their efforts during the period without an ASA.

279/08/23 **(1) Apologies:** Mick Hurst (MH).

280/08/23 **(2) Declaration of Interest**

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

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

JT declared an interest as a tenants on Wood St site.

281/08/23 **(3) Minutes of previous Board Meeting – 17th July 2023.**

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

282/08/23 **(4) Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

283/08/23 **(5) Admin report**

- a) It was noted that the Shareholder/Tenant meeting would take place on Tuesday 19th September 2023 commencing at 6.30 pm in the Unity Centre. It was agreed that Chair, Secretary would assist ASA to prepare an agenda.
- b) Following web site notice of the Director vacancy, one shareholder had shown interest, an application form being sent for completion.
- c) It was agreed that future Board meetings for 2023 would take place on the second Monday of each Month commencing at 1.00pm in the Garden Room. Officers meetings would be held in between Board meeting as required. The 2024 diary of Board and Committee meetings to be agreed at a later date.
- d) A society query concerning the policy for removal of asbestos from allotment sites had identified the need to review the RAA Health and Safety policy to include and ‘asbestos policy’. JP/MH would look into this and suggest the necessary amendments in due course..
- e) Following receipt of a further request for FOI it was agreed that further information was required to determine the RAA’s responsibility of what should be provided. DS agreed to seek this information and report to the next meeting of the Board.

284/08/23 **(6) Financial Matters**

- a) The treasurer report the current status of the RAA bank balances as of 21st July 2023 – Current account £52674.43, Deposit account £24378.22.
- b) The following authorized payments were noted:-
 - Insurance renewal with Chris Knott Insurance for 2023/24.
 - Contract renewal with MCPC for Colony for 2023/24.

285/08/23 **(7) Maintenance**

- a) Moor Road - drainage. Contractor had confirmed his quotation for the necessary work. It was agreed that the work be ordered as soon as practical.
- b) Avenue Road – further cockerel complaint being investigated, RMBC proving difficult to contact. Cultivation and other rule infringement letters sent out recently.

- c) Directors noted MH's previously circulated Vermin control report. It was agreed that MH should provide details of the number and location of all bait boxes for consideration at the next meeting. Concerns raised that boxes are not being placed correctly by tenants on their plots.
- d) Rectory Fields – further to minute no 272/07/23(d) arrangements would be made to hold a tenant meeting to determine the support for the formation of a society to manage this site. Notice of the meeting will be emailed, texted and notice posted on the site.
- e) Access to allotment plots from adjacent residential properties – this item be placed on the agenda of the Shareholder Meeting (19th September 2023) and Society Forum Meeting (10th October 2023). Full details contained in minute no 272/07/23(i).
- f) Wood Street – concerns regarding tree with elm dieback. Fell and leave on area to be developed as a nature area being the preferred option.
- g) Vicarage Fields – it was agreed to arrange for repair of fence allegedly damaged by farm machinery working in adjoining field. Recovery of cost from those responsible to be pursued on completion of work.
- h) Wharf Road – concerns raised about grass cutting, most likely weather related.
- i)

286/08/23 (8) Transfer and Transitional arrangements RMBC to RAA (including SLA)

- a) No progress to report on the transfer.
- b) Grazing sites - Whitelea Road – a key to gain access has been request for sports filed user.

287/08/23 (9) Society Update

- a) Clifton – report that the vermin problem is now under control and thanked RAA for their assistance.
- b) Queen Street South – request for a skip – this was agreed.
- c) Broom Valley Old – a bee keeper requires to move from the site and is seeking alternative site. Agreed that societies be approached to determine if any had a suitable area of land.
- d) Broom Valley New – consideration was given to a previously circulated report by MH following his site visit to investigate problems with the access road from Brunswick Road which was deemed dangerous. Chair and Secretary to visit with ASA.

288/08/23 (10) Rotherham Show

Rotherham show – 2nd and 3rd September 2023. RAA to attend – discussion took place on attendance and manning of the RAA stand.

289/08/23 (11) Any Other Business

- No issues raised.

290/08/23 (12) Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Preparation of the 2024/25/25 budgets to allow consideration of plot rental for 2025 (which has to be notified at time of sending 2024 rental demands.
- Society Forum Meeting 10th October 2023 Unity Centre 6.30pm..

291/08/23 (13) Date of Next Meeting

Board – 11th September 2023 – 1pm – Clifton Park Garden Room

BS thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 3.00pm.

Signed 
Brian Steele (Chair)

Date 25/08/2023