

# Rotherham Allotments Alliance

## Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting - 96		
Minute Taker:	Jamie Calvert		
Date:	16 December 2024	Time:	13:00
Location:	Clifton Garden House		

Attendees:

Directors: Brian Steele Chair (BS), John Palmer (JP), and Richard Watson (RW).  
Support Officer: Jamie Calvert (JC)

Apologies:

Jack Taylor (JT), Mohammed Suleman (MS), Cllr Dave Sheppard (DS)

### 112/12/24 Apologies

- a. Jack Taylor (JT)
- b. Cllr Dave Sheppard (DS)

### 113/12/24 Declarations of Interest

- a. JP declared an interest as a tenant on the Barnsley Rd site.
- b. RW declared an interest as society treasurer on the Clifton site.

### 114/12/24 Minutes from the previous meeting

- a. Board meeting 94 minutes were moved as a true record by (JP) and duly signed (electronically) by the Chairperson.

### 115/12/24 Matters arising

- a. There were no matters arising.

### 116/12/24 Admin Report

- a. It was suggested that a full review of plots listed as decommissioned and unlettable by undertaken. This review should be used to inform the regular performance figures by improving the accuracy of vacancies as a percentage of availability.
- b. It was queried whether Voluntary Action Rotherham have contacted us regarding the annual accounts. The ASO confirmed that we have not received any contact and will reach out to the new VAR accountant via the service manager.
- c. A discussion was had regarding increasing reports of vandalism on the High Street allotment site. It was noted that improvements to the site fence are scheduled and that temporary repairs have been made. It was also noted that previous use of wildlife cameras was unsuccessful as they were stolen from the site.
- d. It was agreed to hold funds as allocated to South Street allotments for road plannings. The society have requested confirmation of this but are yet to provide a date for delivery.
- e. It was unanimously agreed by the board to accept the quote for resurfacing the remaining trackway at Avenue road site. Once this work is completed a review of the maintenance contract should be undertaken as the site will have no remaining grass paths or tracks.
- f. It was noted that a process is required for the safe waste removal of expired pest control bait and bait boxes.

- g. It was agreed that a request should be made to senior officers within RMBC to discuss the long-standing issues preventing the handover of the lease to the RAA and other service-related issues.

**117/12/24 Financial Matters**

- a. It was noted that the 2025 budget will require amendment due to the previous forecast being based on a 5% rent rise, since the board voted to raise rents by the lower figure of 2%.

**118/12/24 Maintenance**

- a. The board agreed unanimously to approve the work at Avenue Road Allotments to improve and strengthen the remaining grass tracks.

**119/12/24 Transfer and transitional arrangements RMBC to RAA (including SLA)**

- a. The RAA solicitor has confirmed that they are still waiting on the proposed amendments to the lease where land registry is proving difficult. No further action can be taken until the solicitor and RAA board has an opportunity to review the proposal.

**120/12/24 Society update**

- a. No issues were raised

**121/12/24 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

- a. It was noted that no issues have been raised and that this item be removed from future agendas unless an issue arises.

**122/12/24 Any other business**

- a. It was brought to the attention of the board that the RMBC may have allocated funds to Sandy Mount allotments. This is to be raised at a meeting with the RMBC.
- b. A query was raised with the ASO whether the RAA would be interested and willing to manage a newly formed allotment site in Maltby. This was in advance of any official proposal and it was recommended that a draft proposal be submitted to the RAA board by Maltby Council.

**123/12/24 Agenda items for next meeting**

- a. None

**124/12/24 Date of Next Meeting**

- a. Board Meeting 97 – 20/01/2025 - 13:00 – Microsoft Teams, Online

BS thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 14:05pm.

Signed



Brian Steele

Date

27/01/2025