

RUSHDEN PERMANENT ALLOTMENT AND SMALL HOLDING SOCIETY LIMITED

Registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

Register no. 3126R

E-mail rushdenallotments@hotmail.co.uk

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting Held on Wednesday 20th March 2019 at Grafton Road Rushden

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:00pm

Present:

Russell Jarvis	RJ	Pam Clark	PC
Anita Jarvis	AJ	Dave Flook	DF
Dave Craker	DC		
Keith Jackson	KJ	Mark Cox	MC
Peter Swindley	PS	John Bowerman	JB
Dee Smith	DS		

Apologies:

Anita Medlock

The minutes for 20th February 2019 discussed and agreed.

Proposed KJ
2nd PC
All Agreed

Minutes of Meeting held on 20th February Action Points

Action points Meeting 20th February 2019		
Subject	Action required	Action taken
Action points: Secretary's report and Correspondence	Access via the second gate into our area must be sorted out and a new lock obtained. A letter will be sent to Mr Johnson requesting him to: - Remove the blockage across our road. - Provide us with the 'Connection Job Number' for his linking into the Alexandra Road supply.	Complete See Correspondence for further detail
Action points: Secretary's report and Correspondence	Write to a member advising him that the Committee required seeing progress on his plot for 6 months as well as seeing his official licences/other paperwork permitting him to handle pigs before approval is granted	Complete
Action points: Secretary's report and Correspondence	Reply to a prospective member informing her that she will be allowed a plot which will be reviewed at the end of 6 months	Complete
Action points: Secretary's	Reply to Emma McGeechan regarding	Complete

report and Correspondence	decline permission for a plot.	
Action points: Secretary's report and Correspondence	RJ will email the members and have them contact Mrs Allen if they have any such items (which includes tools and seeds).	Complete There was a very good response and items contributed and sold raised £54 for the school.
Action points: Secretary's report and Correspondence	RJ stated that he would email members advising them of the Litter Pick, Tree Planting on the Greenway which will take place on Saturday 9 th March	Complete

Secretary's Report and Correspondence

1. Email – A neighbour of Washbrook Road request to erect a fence next to current society fence. Discussed and agreed to allow.

2. Email - Request an allotment plot to keep racing pigeons and chickens.

Discussed and agreed to inform him that he may apply for a plot to cultivate and the need to be a member for 2 years before an application to keep fowl/animals can be considered.

3. Email – A member – States he continues to work plot and list items missing from his plot.

Discussed and it was agreed that the member must be expelled. He has been given numerous chances to maintain and cultivate his plot. He will be informed of this and advised to re-apply for a plot in the future when he is able to cultivate it as required. He will be asked to remove the carpet from the plot and advise him that some of the items he lists as missing are in his poly tunnel and any further help on this is difficult unless he can specify when you he last saw them.

4. Email – An ex member – Request to apply for a plot after leaving some time ago due to various issues.

Discussed and agreed she may reapply and will be added to the waiting list for Bedford Road.

5. Email – A member – Application have extra plots on Washbrook Road in order to exercise his large dogs.

Discussed and agreed that the plots he requested have not had regular occupiers and as he currently maintains his other plots to a satisfactory standard; it was felt he would maintain the grass etc. on the land. It was agreed that he is allowed to take over the plots on the understanding that he keeps the grass cut and maintains a good relationship with the adjoining plot holders, for a period of 12 months when it will be reviewed.

6. Email – A member – Request for children from Rushden Primary Academy to visit Bedford Road field.

Discussed and agreed that as there is little growing at this time, Carrie will be asked to reapply later in the year.

7. Lucy Hawes- Community Development Officer ENC – Thank you for participation in clearing the Greenway.

Noted

8. Letter A member – Inform he is to give up plot due to various family reasons and request to re-apply later in the year.

Noted and agreed.

9. Letter – A member – Request permission for 2 greenhouses on plot at Washbrook Road.

Agreed.

10. Letter - Michael Johnson – Response to 1st letter from society informing him to remove the fence he has erected.

Mr Johnson had sent a key claiming it fitted the gate and that the gate raised in height was a replacement of a 5 bar gate and would be removed when planning permission given for a house.

RJ stated that he returned the key as it did not fit the gate and wrote a further letter to which he had received no response. He produced a photo taken in 2017 (he will confirm this with a resident on Alexandra Road when able to) which showed there was no gate across the entrance where he stated. The gates erected are wrought iron and next to garage doors. It encroaches on the 10 ft. road and 13 ft. grass verges that belong to the society. RJ was informed that a person had told Mr Johnson of this,

although he claimed he did not know. RJ has a copy of the last official conveyance document from the land registry that clearly states the road's ownership and appropriate widths. RJ stated the society had been advised not to sell the roadway. He has consulted solicitors and it was agreed their costs in order to send letters etc. was far too high. The committee agreed to write to Mr Johnson informing him that he must remove the gates as they are on society land and not permitted to be there. If he does not remove them, the society committee will do so at his expense. Meanwhile RJ will consult the police on the law around this.

11. Phone calls to RJ – He reported 3 long-standing members are leaving.

12. Phone call – Anonymous male asking for a plot to keep butterflies. RJ informed him of the need to cultivate land and the 2-year rule before an application to keep wildlife can be considered.

Treasurer's Report

- The actual bank balance now stands at £3,977.56 with £861.97 Petty Cash including £200.00 float for additional work at Washbrook Road
- This month we have started to receive the Annual rents. So far, we have collected £1900.00. A number of members have paid by bank transfer and the main collection day will be on Saturday at the Grafton Road stores.
- All bills are paid up to date.

Field Reports

Highfield Road

- There is nothing to report this month.

Washbrook Road

- The owner of the poly tunnel that flew on to PC's plot has come forward at last.
- RJ was been informed that a female in her 50's with long dark hair was seen dumping rubbish from the allotment field on to the Greenway and it has been reported to the council. RJ identified the rubbish when he was helping to clear the Greenway. He will clear the glass dumped himself. It is hoped once the clearance is finished members will stop dumping, they have been informed of the consequences.
- MC asked whether he should continue with the barbed wire and told to do so.

Bedford Road

- Nothing to report this month.

Grafton Road /Small Holding

- There had been a large fire at the back of the smallholdings, which had scared the horses and destroyed 3 caravans, a lorry and a car.

Store/Rota

- The rota for the month was agreed.

Health and Safety

- Nothing to report this month.

Any Other Business

- There are no issues this month.
- Due to the Secretary's unavailability in April, it was agreed the next meeting will be held on 15th May. Any issues arising regarding Mr Johnson before then will be addressed by email or a meeting called if necessary.

Meeting Closed: 20:45

Date of next meeting Wednesday 15th May at 7:00pm

Signed_____

Counter signed_____

Date _____