

L&DAS COMMITTEE REPORTS JUNE 2021

Treasurer Report June 2021

Again, not much to report this month.

Income YTD = £6640

Expenditure YTD = £2875

Current account balance = £5325

I am still waiting for responses on the asset register audit from several sites.

Secretary Report June 2021

Waiting list is at 94 after 8 new applicants over the last month. All is quiet otherwise.

Site Report The Moggs June 2021

Rick fixed a rotted hinge on the gate at a cost of £9. Given the state of the old hinge it is likely that the other 3 will need to be replaced fairly soon (cost £27)

Hedge trimmer has packed in and I am in discussion with Martin about purchasing a replace. My understanding is that it is only the Moggs that has regular use for a trimmer.

Plants are being donated to plant swap and quickly taken by other ploholders.

I have contacted two ploholders about lack of activity and this seems to have resolved itself.

Site Report Beacon Street June 2021

Water Supply

The supply to the site was interrupted this month when a neighbour in Beacon Gardens ripped up our supply pipe. The neighbour found a water pipe when excavating foundations for a new extension. They contacted South Staffs Water who inspected the pipe and told them it was probably redundant and could be ripped up. A plot-holder noticed we had lost supply when the water troughs did not refill.

I investigated, noticed the building works and spoke to the builder. The supply has now been reinstated.

I also informed South Staffs Water using their website but have had no acknowledgement. As a result we now know the route of the supply pipe to the allotment and the location of the stop valve in Beacon Gardens. This is shared with some of the houses in Beacon Gardens.

I have marked up the drawing of the water supply to Beacon Street Allotments with this new information (see attached).

Plot 3A

There has been a group of plot-holders working on the plot 3A on the last Saturday mornings to clear the fruit bushes from the plot and layout boundary paths. More work still needs to be done before it is re-let.

Horsetail or Maretail

We have had an infestation of maretail on the allotments for a number of years but it now seems to be moving up through the plots. It is present on plots 1-3 and starting to infect plot 4. Has anyone any advice on its removal? The only advice I have found is regular digging to remove roots and hoeing to remove new shoots. Strong weedkillers are available but need to be applied in late summer but this is when there are crops in the ground.

Site report Netherstowe June 2021

Severn Trent have made two more visits and have found a leak which requires more work as the pipe concerned is full of silt. Very slow progress but progress non the less. I shall continue to push for the outstanding work to be carried out ASAP.

No vacant plots and all new tenants making a great start.

Site Report Christchurch June 2021

One tenant has given up; the plot has been taken over by an existing tenant with an adjacent plot. I have not had a response from the Open Spaces Officer regarding the fences, trees and gates. I will send a gentle reminder today.

One of the troughs has a leak which will be investigated this week.

Site Report Cherry Orchard June 2021

Nothing much to report from Cherry Orchard allotments.

New plot holders are getting stuck in well.

We have an infestation of bees in the shed which has put hold on plans to tidy it out, paint it and do some minor repairs!

Comms Officer Report June 2021

Facebook update since last meeting:

- As at 21 June - 71 members. 4 non-plot holders removed; 3 non-plot holder applications declined; 1 application accepted (plot holder).
- Query: 2 FB members accepted in March are not plot holders but on the waiting list. So far I've taken the least line of resistance but suggest they are removed – do the committee agree in principle that the page is for plot holders only?
- Low level of activity on the page since last meeting – no real issues. Gardening donations for Netherstowe school invited.

Public Version of Committee Minutes

The role includes sharing Committee minutes on the website and ensuring that sensitive information is not disclosed. When I spoke to Lewis before the last meeting we agreed that the public minutes would be (i) an amended version of the 'usual' minutes and (ii) agreed at the same time.

No amendments suggested to April and May minutes. However, they refer to Committee reports, presumably part of the minutes and include person sensitive information and require changing prior to publication.

Action following meeting of 21 April to communicate decision on sheds/ greenhouses

Still outstanding. Suggest committee agree the following - revised & shortened to reflect passage of time:

“With apologies for the communications glitch. There was a great deal of discussion on Facebook in April/ May about whether sheds and/ or greenhouses should be allowed on individual plots. Site reps talked with plot holders and, based on the feedback, the full range of views was reflected in a long discussion at the committee meeting on 21 April. The question was put to a vote and it was agreed that at this time sheds, greenhouses and large poly tunnels should not be allowed on individual plots. If you have

questions about this (or other matters) your site rep and other committee members will be very happy to talk about this."