

## **LICHFIELD & DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 at 8pm in the Social Club, Purcell Avenue.**

Present:

Liz Bowsher, Lewis Hatton, Martin Cornish, Andy Grice, Tony Lee, Bill Londesborough, Shirley Londesborough, Rick Stretton

Apologies: Tim Boylan, Juliet Jackson, Dan Jackson, Naomi Rutherford

Tony introduced Melinda Hensher who will be taking over as site rep at Beacon Street in the New Year.

Committee reports are attached.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

The communication to members regarding the proposed rent increase has yet to be finalised.

The minutes were then agreed and signed.

### **Secretary Position**

There has been an expression of interest from a society member. Shirley and Lewis will be meeting them on Wednesday 17th November. There has also been an enquiry from another member as to what the position entails. The possibility of sharing some of the Secretary's responsibilities with other committee members was discussed and the core role will be reassessed in January.

### **AGM Topics**

The Committee have discussed changing the rent due date from end of March to end of January. This will need to be approved at the next AGM in order for it to be brought in for 2023. There needs to be notification in advance that there will be a vote at the AGM regarding this.

Tony suggested that the Management of Plots document should be renamed as the Society Rules which could be attached as an appendix to the Constitution. These could be revised each year and agreed at the AGM. They should also be published on the web site and displayed on notice boards on site so that up-to-date Rules are available to members. Andy suggested that one rule that should be added is that there should be zero tolerance to abuse of committee members by email or verbally. The Committee were asked if the Management of Plots document should be changed to Allotment Rules and all agreed.

### **Meeting Format for 2022**

The Zoom licence paid for by the council will end next year. The committee agreed to hold face to face meetings from now on.

## **2022 Events**

The committee discussed whether to hold the Annual Show and the Social Evening for 2022, bearing in mind the cost to the Society and level of interest from Society members. In the light of the uncertainty for the next year regarding the progress of the pandemic it was decided not to hold these events for 2022 but to ask at the AGM what the general feeling is amongst members as to whether we should continue with a show and social evening for 2023. This will also need to be communicated to members in advance. The potato competition will go ahead as usual.

## **Plot Management**

The committee were shown a draft document that has been produced by Andy, Naomi, Keith Dinsdale and Liz. This document aims to solve communication and other issues that can result in misunderstanding between members and site reps. It explains the standards expected for plot cultivation and it is suggested that it be posted on the web site.

The document aims to explain to newcomers what is expected and that site reps will monitor their progress for the first three months to keep in touch and give support if there are any problems or issues that can be resolved. It would also be a document to refer to should there be disagreement over standards. After discussion it was agreed that we would have a draft copy with any other suggested amendments to look at in January.

## **AOB**

Netherstowe have had a fire to get rid of rubbish on the site. A letter was sent out to residents to warn of this.

The honoraria to Treasurer and Secretary will be paid this month.

There has been a good response to the proposed visit to Sandfields Pumping Station and Rick will give Shirley's name to the Trust as a contact to arrange details.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

CHAIRMAN .....

SECRETARY .....

**Next meeting – Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 8pm (to be confirmed)**