

Note of Stonebridge Allotment Society Open Meeting held in the Purifier Building on 17 July 2018 at 7.30 pm.

Sally Kerin (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. A total of 24 allotment holders, which included the Committee, participated. She explained that there was no formal agenda and it was an opportunity for plot holders to express their views.

1. In response to a query from **Angela Smith** about the use of brown water, **Sally** said that consideration of the scheme remained in our work programme.

2. **Karen Hall** expressed concerns about tree saplings and seed heads which were growing on some plots. **Sally** confirmed that under the tenancy agreement plot holders had a responsibility to ensure that such growth was kept in check. The Committee had undertaken a plot inspection at the end of June and 'warning letters' had been sent to 11 tenants.

3. **Karen Hall** told the meeting that some paths were very narrow which created difficulties when using a trolley to transport bark chippings across the site. She also asked why there was a gate at the west end of the bridge opposite plot 53. **Sally** agreed that the Committee would consider any specific concerns about path widths where path users could not resolve the matter with the adjacent plot holders. She also explained the historic reason for retaining the gate but agreed that this would be addressed when there was a change of tenants.

4. **Margy Perkins**, supported by others, said that the planting of wild flowers on the right hand side of the avenue leading into the allotments was commendable. She also thanked the Committee for their efforts and hard work. **Bob Gomes** said it was the intention to similarly plant the other side of the avenue.

5. **Colin Simmonds** thanked plot holders for keeping the entrance gates shut on Brent Hill and confirmed that he had not had any produce stolen following the installation of new locks last year. He also commented that the trimming back of the trees and foliage around the site had greatly increased visibility and served as a deterrent to would be trespassers.

6. **Rosa Bond** asked if it would be possible to establish a seed sharing arrangement. **Andy Freeman** suggested that anyone with spare seeds might like to put them in envelopes and take to the AGM in November. The Committee would consider further.

7. **Sally** told the meeting that whilst the Committee would be arranging a number of working parties, commencing in the Autumn, any tenant could make such arrangements and there had been two such projects completed in the last 12

months. **Sally** said that **Sandra Moriarty**, who had taken on the role of Secretary, would be sending out a programme of working parties in due course.

8. A general discussion took place about the difficulties of communicating information electronically following the introduction of recent GDPR legislation. There was general consensus that information relating to 'allotment matters' could be freely shared by those who actively signed up to such arrangements.

9. **Teresa Heselden** told the meeting that she had served on the Committee for a year but was now standing down. She encouraged others to consider a similar short term appointment.

10. **Sally** confirmed that the Committee had no plans to arrange a site bonfire. She also thanked **Sandra Moriarty** and **Teresa Heselden** for providing refreshments for the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm