

Craven Vale & Whitehawk Hill Allotments Society

Meeting Sunday, 18 May 2024

Bristol Estate Community Room

Present	Apologies
Jenny Embleton – 118 CV, Treasurer & Chairing James Gilderoy – 37 CV, note taker Mary Ledgard – 26 CV Pete Elliott – WH site rep Jane Griffin – WH site rep Nick Fry – CV site rep	Roger Dean – 55 CV Tara Salter – 58b CV Paul Skelly – 37 CV Arthur Tallon – 77/1WH

Actions for committee members in **bold**.

Minutes of the last meeting (11 February 2024)

- The minutes were agreed and taken as read.

Matters arising

- **Mary** has acquired varnish and will complete work on the Hub sign.
- **Pete** will install a post near the entrance to mark the concrete trip hazard.
- Pete reported that BHCC was still not responding adequately to requests for additional keys.
- There had been no response from the request to ward councillors to visit the site.
- The spring clean of the Hub had been completed.
- Regarding the outside space around the Hub, it was believed that the actual boundary of the Hub plot the was about one metre up-slope from the fence. It was decided that:
 - The fence would be moved to the original plot boundary, allowing more room for the seating area.
 - This would require movement of soil from the up-slope area to where the land falls away, levelling and making good.
 - This project could potentially form a bid to BHAF for site improvement.
 - A project plan and costing (including potentially a small mechanical digger) would be required.
- Roger had suggested more events take place during the week, as he works at the weekend and is often unavailable for Hub activities.
- Work on the Hub outside space project, including planning/costing, was thought to be a suitable mid-week project.
- Gate numbers provided by Men in Sheds had been attached to all gates.
- Men in Sheds would be allowed to make use of the Hub; a Hub key holder would need to be available.
- A successful seedling swap was held in early May; £170 was taken in donations and sales.
- The Spud in a Bucket competition had started well, with many taking part.
- The newsletter, when completed, would be put on the website and BHCC asked to send a link to all CV and WH ploholders.

- Mini-beds: 11 beds completed and 10 let; further beds would be made in the autumn. The mini-bedders had established a WhatsApp group to help manage key access. Thought would be given to purchasing woodchip for the pathways.

Update from Site Reps

- On-going frustration with lack of co-operation and engagement by BHCC, absorbing a large amount of site reps' time. Frustration was shared by BHAF.
- Jane had written to Chenine Bhathena, Assistant Director, Culture, Tourism and Sport, BHCC, with suggestions to improve the allotment service.
- Next letting had been pushed back to July from last autumn.
- A plot had been identified with five bee hives, apparently without permission. Unfortunately, BHCC allotment rules do not limit the number of hives that can be on site after permission is granted.
- Plot inspections had been undertaken and reported to BHCC, but with no follow-up from them.
- It was noted that several plot holders had made unofficial arrangements with unregistered co-workers to take on their plot, and to jump the waiting list. Site reps will now require proof of address for any co-worker requesting a key and they would be checked to ensure they were formally registered.

Committee membership

- It was decided that invitations to join the committee would be extended to registered plotheolders, mini-bedders and co-workers once they had passed one year on the site and their plot had met the cultivation standards required by the BHCC Allotment Rules.
- The committee recognised the need to bring new blood onto the committee.
- It was agreed to hold the AGM on 20 July at which the posts of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and committee members would be voted on. Named individuals of executive posts were required for banking purposes and named trustees were also required for the purposes of anti-money laundering legislation.

Finances

- £1260 in the bank at the end of April. £2206 spent over the year with income of £2358.

Upcoming events

- Hub ground works – 29 June
- AGM – 20 July. This needs to be advertised at least one month before the meeting to all plot-holders and co-workers. A poster will be produced and displayed on all notice boards and put online and the Allotment Office asked to circulate the information via email.
- Spud in a bucket weigh-in – 14 September
- Apple Day – date to be confirmed in late September/early October, dependent on availability of Roedale Allotments equipment.

Any other business

- Celebrate CVWHAS 10th anniversary at the AGM.
- Combination lock at mast gate – no news of when it would be replaced with a key lock.

- An American college student was going to link to the website as part of a project on the benefits of outdoor activities.

Next meeting: **AGM Saturday 20 July**

Rota for Hub opening 2024						
11:00 – 13:00 over summer, 11.00 - 12.00 winter						
Spring / Summer						
02-Jun-24	Sunday	2 hours	Paul	James		
15-Jun-24	Saturday	2 hours	Roger	Tara	Penny?	
07-Jul-24	Sunday	2 hours				
20-Jul-24	Saturday	2 hours	Andrew	Max		Followed by AGM and 10 year celebration
04-Aug-24	Sunday	2 hours	Arthur	Fiona Byrne		
17-Aug-24	Saturday	2 hours	Jenny	Clare Jones		
01-Sep-24	Sunday	2 hours	Paul	James		
14-Sep-24	Saturday	2 hours	Tara			Spud in a bucket weigh in
Apple day – date tbc, late September / early October.						