

Craven Vale & Whitehawk Hill Allotments Society
Meeting Saturday, 14 June 2025
CVWHAS Hub

Present:

Jenny Embleton – 118CV, Treasurer & Chairing
James Gilderoy – 37CV, note taker
Paul Skelly – 37CV
Arthur Tallon – 77/1WH
Jane Griffin – 47WH, site rep
Pete Elliot – site rep
Jono Smyth – 69CV

Apologies:

Mary Ledgard – 26CV
Nick Fry – 64CV
Roger Dean – 55CV
Tara Salter – 58bCV

Minutes of the last meeting (15 December 2024)

- The minutes were agreed and taken as read.

Matters arising

- There had been no further contact with Men in Sheds; it was unclear if the local group was still functioning.
- There had been no news from BELTA about their unused plot.
- **Paul** will contact Fork and Dig It about possible on-site training sessions.

Site Rep Updates

Nick

- Spring Inspections on Craven Vale took place on 25 April. A 2nd inspection is likely to take place in the next couple of weeks
- BHCC has a spending freeze and will not issue more site keys, which is delaying further plot letting. Hopefully, will be resolved soon.
- Worsening problems with Beresford Road and Mast gates have been reported to BHCC as matters of urgency.
- BHCC has also been reminded about the potentially dangerous dead tree by the Hub.

Jane

- Pete and Jane did the 1st inspections at Whitehawk Hill and then worked with the BHCC allotment officers for their initial inspection. They are waiting for their follow up before terminations can be issued.
- Unfortunately enforcement action may not be taken for many long term unused plots.
- Jane offered to brief the decision-makers, who don't understand the system that allotments site reps operate by, but has not had any response.

Pete

- Plot 90CV had been double let but this had now been sorted out with BHCC.

Mini-beds update

- Next working party 22 June.
- The sub-committee members inspected the beds and asked a few people to address weed and cultivation issues; these have mostly been resolved. Several original mini-bidders have successfully moved on to bigger plots.

New members

- Unanimously agreed that Andy Liles, 51CV should join the CVWHAS committee.
- Agreed that Fiona Byrne, 86CV would be invited to join if she is still interested, as she had now been a co-worker for over 12 months.
- Thanks were extended to Jenny Collins, 7WH, who was standing down from the committee for the time being.

Environmental gardening

- There was general agreement that encouraging environmental gardening, such as not using pesticides and herbicides, using water responsibly, providing habitats for wildlife etc, should be encouraged across CV and WH allotments and at other BHCC allotments.
- It was agreed to include this as a discussion item at the AGM.

Hedgehogs

- Advice on the introduction of hedgehogs was that if they were not already present then not to introduce them as the site was possibly unsuitable (e.g. too much disturbance).
- But that hedgehog friendly spaces should be encouraged (e.g. shelter, enabling movement between plots) to help facilitate natural colonisation.

Finance and membership

- 76 members
- Agreed to peg annual fee at £5 for the coming year, although membership of National Allotment Society has increased to £3.50.
- £1500 in the bank.

Any Other Business

- Hemlock had been spotted on a vacant plot on CV and would be reported to BHCC.
- **Paul** will investigate whether a local lichen expert would be willing to do a lichen spotting event on the site.

Date of next meeting

- 28 September. This will be the AGM and will be advertised on all the noticeboards.