

NORTH OUTFALL ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN

Mr David Gelder
37 Hill Top Avenue
Harrogate
HG1 3BZ
chairman@noaaharrogate.org.uk

TREASURER

Mr Ken Lowther
2 Juniper Way
Harrogate
HG3 2YD
treasurer@noaaharrogate.org.uk

SECRETARY

Miss Michelle Depledge
244 Skipton Road
Harrogate
HG1 3HB
secretary@noaaharrogate.org.uk

Minutes of the committee meeting - Saturday 22nd June @ 10.00am.

1) Present.

David Gelder ,Peter Sanderson ,Fiona Walker ,Robin Adderley ,James Nicolls , Mark Nicholls , Michelle DePledge, Andy Nicholls (part)

Apologies -Ken Lowther , Scott Turner

Introduction by Chairman of Michelle DePledge as Secretary – vote of six of which 4 agreed with 2 abstentions.

2) Minutes of last meeting.

- a) The minutes of last meeting were accepted as a true record.
- b) Proposed :Robin Adderley Seconded :Mark Nicolls

3) Matters arising from minutes.

- a) Two plots are still not being maintained to required standard and so individual plot holders are to be contacted and reminded of clause 5 of tenancy agreement – Andy is to contact those concerned.
- b) Council has still not been contacted with regard to damage occurring on plot 1a due to mowing too close to the hedge - James is to speak to council staff member “Sam”

4) Correspondence.

No correspondence has been received.

5) Chairman’s report.

- a) Site maintenance was raised due to forthcoming Harrogate Allotment judges being on site Friday 28th June and it was requested for all committee members to encourage plot holders to tidy their plots and maintain paths.

The decision was made to select 6 plots to present to judges with this figure being whittled down by the judges own choices.

- b) It was brought to Chairman's attention that two aggressive emails had been received by the Membership Secretary which shocked the committee.
Upon viewing of one of the said emails it was conceded that there was no aggressive tone in said content and that it had possibly been misread.
The second email was not found.

6) Treasurer's report.

- a) The practicality of internet banking was discussed with various pros and con's being discussed but decision was made to postpone further discussions until new Chairman was in place.
- b) Invoice for rent payable to Harrogate Borough Council is due and to be paid out of NOAA account – Ken to make payment.

7) Membership secretary report

- a) Initially no change to waiting list numbers was reported, however, when the Membership Secretary arrived he reported there was one addition to the waiting list taking it up to 20

8) Web admin report/emails.

- a) Scott Turner not in attendance however small changes to website wording such as "78 one plots" to "78 single plots" to be done and further action is needed regarding email communication issues which are still ongoing.

9) Emails and communications.

- a) There are still a few plot holders who have not confirmed their email addresses and so this is to be chased up.
- b) There is still some confusion as to who has admin access on the Google mail and so this is to be clarified and amended/adjusted as needed.
- c) Incorrect spelling of surnames on email addresses but it was reported this has now been amended.

10) HDAF.

- a) No information or forms presented to committee from meeting held on 14th May 2019 but raffle tickets for sale were distributed among committee members to sell.
- b) The organising of a prize sponsored by the NOAA for the winner of a child's class at the HDAF 2019 has unfortunately run out of time for this year's show.
- c) James is to email all tenants information about HDAF annual show.
- d) David is to email committee date of next HDAF AGM.

11) Site maintenance.

- a) The issue of the hedge along the top boundary was raised again with two committee members requesting it be allowed to grow much higher to increase

security and prevent vandals gaining access however after discussion it was decided to keep hedge at current height so as not to compromise wildlife and tree/plant growth.

- b) Management of hedge is to remain the duty of Harrogate Borough Council.

Apologies for lateness – Andy Nicholls

12) AOB.

- a) Previous tenant has not handed their gate key back and is now believed to be out of the country for a considerable period of time and so decision was made to cut new key to replace it.
- b) Question was asked of Membership Secretary if role was proving to be too much with attendance to meetings and email communication cited. Membership secretary stated not so and that attendance to meetings and email communications although difficult with work commitments were not a problem.
- c) Issue was again raised about woodchip and its proximity to manure pile. Concern was raised about woodchip contaminating the manure. It was pointed out that on the last occasion it had been placed temporarily upon a tenants plot. The fact it was on a tenants plot was strongly contested however after close inspection by two committee members of site boundary map it was conceded that the woodchip had indeed been placed upon tenants plot and rest of the committee felt having it permanently kept there was not a fair option to the plot tenant. It was decided after much discussion that the best way forward was to keep woodchip next to manure with James keeping manure pile tidier and Fiona agreeing to make sure that not too much woodchip contaminated the manure in the short space of time woodchip was next to it.
- d) Concern was again raised about a plot holder having a log pile on their plot which could be a potential fire hazard.
- e) The issue was raised about plant overgrowth along Path parallel to water treatment works being overgrown and it was requested a notice be sent to relevant plot holders that it was their responsibility to cut this down however there was objections to this due to prolific wild flower growth providing a haven for wildlife.
- f) Tenant had raised the issue with a committee member about the annual NOAA BBQ and what date it would be held. The date of 25th of August was decided upon with a start time of 12.00pm with first batch of food cooked and available to serve for 1.00pm. Burgers and hot dogs would be provided with various condiments but other food offerings were to be brought to BBQ or donated by tenants themselves. Price point of £5.00 per adult and £3.00 per child with a cap on child age of 12 years old or younger applicable. Final arrangements to be discussed by committee in due course.

- g) AGM date to be set and venue booked however it was discussed that the 7th of October seemed to be the favoured date with Bilton Cricket Club as a venue but these details are to be finalised.

Meeting then drew to a close but several committee members commented that a hostile and unwelcoming atmosphere was pervading the site and that several plot holders were now feeling the effects of this and that it was a great shame as the whole point of the allotment was to relax and restore one's wellbeing and escape from the stresses and strains of modern life.

The final comment was made by Fiona who's statement "Let's just get back to gardening" brought the meeting to a close.

Time was 12.15pm.

13) *Next Meeting*

TBC