

Senlac Allotment Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

Thursday 18th January 7.00 pm at The King's Head

Present: Trevor Henning, Chairman and Virgins Croft representative
 Steve Mellor, Cherry Gardens representative
 Janet Edmondson, Watch Oak representative
 Darren Buss, Battle Town Council
 Kay Hunting, Secretary

1.	Apologies: Fern Burgess, Netherfield Hill representative.	Action
2.	Finances: Situation with regard to the Nationwide account. Trevor asked for this to be dealt with under any other business.	
3.	Allotment reports:	
(a)	<p>Town Council:</p> <p>Kay reported that a list of allotment tenants' forenames and plot numbers has been provided by the Town Council, surnames and emailing details not being available to us because of the GDPR legislation requirements.</p> <p>Kay pointed out that the constitution requires the secretary to maintain a list of members with their chosen mail contact details. Due to the restrictions of GDPR not allowing the Council to pass on contact details, this requirement is not able to be fulfilled. Steve and Janet volunteered to gather contact details from their allotment sites.</p> <p>Report from Cllr. Darren Buss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Darren reported that plot 13 at Cherry Gardens has been let to the volunteer group "Wild About Battle" organised by Amanda Kerr and Audrey Koop. The volunteers are to have a meeting with BTC ground staff and the idea is to have raised beds etc. which people who cannot manage a whole allotment can come and use. They are planning an open day. ii. Battle Festival are looking for a "cause" they can support and for which they could apply for an environmentally based funding grant. It was agreed that this idea would be worth pursuing. iii. The Council are considering minor changes to tenancy agreements for new lettings and would like input from SAA, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No bonfires or fires of any sort such as BBQs. Although it was appreciated that the indiscriminate lighting of bonfires could be a problem, this total ban was considered too restrictive. It was suggested that a total ban only be applicable in drought conditions when the Fire Brigade had issued a no fire order. • No use of pesticides or weedkiller. Again, this was considered too restrictive and perhaps it should be only organic and legally approved products are allowed. 	SM JE

		<p>Darren said that when a further draft agreement was prepared it would be sent to SAA for comment.</p> <p>iv. Darren had prepared a leaflet about vacant allotments for circulation at Darvel Down and Netherfield but it had been decided inappropriate to distribute this until the road works at Netherfield Hill were completed.</p>	DB
	(b)	<p>Cherry Gardens: Steve Mellor</p> <p>i. Steve suggested installing a handrail from the gate accessing plot 13 (now let to Wild About Battle) down to where the water tap is. The path is quite steep and easy to slip on, especially if plot 13 is to be used by people with access problems. Agreed this was a good idea and Steve will organise.</p> <p>ii. The issue of noise from cockerels is not a problem during the winter months.</p>	SM
	(c)	<p>Netherfield Hill: Fern Burgess</p> <p>No report.</p>	
	(d)	<p>Virgins Croft: Trevor Henning</p> <p>The electricity board have made a temporary repair to the fencing, but this needs to be made good.</p>	
	(e)	<p>Watch Oak: Janet Edmondson</p> <p>Janet reported that all is OK.</p>	
4.		<p>Review of signs:</p> <p>Janet reported that the signs at Watch Oak had completely disintegrated. It was agreed that a more permanent solution needs to be sought rather than laminated A4 sheets. Plastic signs like those used by estate agents are fairly robust although Darren pointed out the Council's lack of funding. Kay suggested that perhaps signs could be sponsored in the same way that Paul Stripp had sponsored signs for the Medieval Fayre. Darren would follow up on this idea with Paul.</p>	DB
5.		<p>BBQ:</p> <p>It was agreed to organise a BBQ for Sunday 11th August at Cherry Gardens.</p>	
6.		<p>Competition:</p> <p>It was agreed to organise competitions for the largest pumpkin and other vegetables to be judged at the BBQ. Kay had purchased a silver cup for 50p from a Hastings Old Town 'junk shop' but which it was agreed could be engraved as one of the prizes.</p>	
7.		<p>Any other business:</p>	
	(a)	<p>Finances:</p> <p>Trevor reported that on his return from holiday he would follow up with Nationwide to resolve the bank account problem. We need to find who the signatories to the account are at the moment so that they can transfer to current committee members, and then negotiate withdrawal of the funds from</p>	TH

	<p>Nationwide. It was suggested that when that has been achieved the funds might be kept at the Council offices.</p> <p>SAA also need to appoint an auditor to certify the accounts in accordance with the constitution.</p>	
(b)	<p>Minutes:</p> <p>Kay will circulate draft minutes to the committee members and suggested that, when approved, they be sent on to Jane so that she can forward them to all the allotment tenants. When sending out the minutes to tenants, it was agreed it would be a good idea to ask tenants to let SAA know if there are any issues with which SAA could try to assist.</p>	KH
8.	<p>Date of next meetings:</p> <p>Thursday 9th May Thursday 8th August Thursday 7th November – AGM</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

KH/23.01.24