

BLACK HORSE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 10am on
Tuesday 27 April 2021 on site**

PRESENT:	Jo Bate Dave Calloway Jackie Howell Maureen Jones John Shobbrook	Chair Secretary Treasurer
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APOLOGIES : **Jackie Cartmell**
 Alan Jones
 Brian Wall

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 8 September 2020			
01/21	The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record		
Actions/Matters arising from the Minutes which are not covered on the agenda			
17/20	Horsetail: There is a need to purchase more Kurtail for treating horsetail on the site and the community garden		
22/30	Skip: Maureen Jones reported that ordering of skip is still on hold until we receive invoice from Sandwell Council for plot rentals for last year and this year. JH agreed to contact Amy Robinson at the Council to get confirmation on what is happening with rents	J Howell	
21/20	Replacement of stolen equipment: John Shobbrook reported that Valerie Vaz MP had not come back on potential funding. We need to replace the generator, strimmer, shredder and rotavator. Members agreed to look into potential sources of funding. If these are replaced, it was suggested that we might want to make arrangements for insurance cover for the contents of the steel shed		
25/20	Vacant plots: Plot 8A has now been allocated to a new tenant and he has begun to work on the plot. Jo Bate handed over a tenancy agreement for signature but it has not yet been returned.		
AGENDA ITEMS			
02/21	Community Garden: Thanks were extended to Brian Wall, Dave Calloway and John Love for laying down the membrane and covering with bark chippings. This is a great improvement.		

03/21	Waiting List: JH tabled a copy of the updated waiting list. Some of the names have been put on some time ago so JH agreed to contact those on the list to see if they wanted to remain on the list or whether they have found another plot elsewhere	J Howell	
04/21	Site shop: Dave Calloway has had a look at the lock to see if hasp and clasp lock suitable. A heavy duty drill will be needed to get through the wall of the shop. It was agreed this would be left for the moment		
05/21	Site Insurance: There has been a significant increase in the site insurance this year which has prompted the need to increase plot rents. The current insurance limits the number of chickens that can be kept on the site to 50.		
06/21	Pumpkin sale: This will be reviewed later in line with Covid restrictions at the time		
07/21	AGM: Need to review the situation at the next meeting in line with Covid restrictions		
08/21	Rents: MJ reported that all plots rents have been paid		
09/21	Complaint re trees: A resident in one of the adjacent houses has made a complaint to the Council about the two trees on right of the site entrance, one of which is a cherry tree. JH has been in touch with the Planning Department to see if we could get a tree preservation order on these for environmental and aesthetic reasons. The Council have confirmed that they would not consider cutting down the trees unless they are either dead or a danger.		
10/21	Dobies seed orders: John Shobbrook reported that there has been an ongoing issue with Dobies around orders and payments. He has provided copies of all the necessary documents to Dobies as proof that all payments have been made. Problems seem to have occurred since Dobies were taken over by Sutton Seeds and then taken over by Thompson and Morgan with the transfer across three differing accounting systems. John is awaiting final resolution. It was agreed that we would look at another provider next year, eg Kings Seeds who give discounts to National Allotments Association of which Black Horse is a member		
11/21	Fencing at the top of plot 3: JB reported on the poor state of the corrugated fencing at the top of plot 3 which was leaving easy access for anyone wanting to get onto the site. JH agreed to contact Amy Robinson at Sandwell Council to see if any new steel fencing could be installed.	J Howell	
12/21	Date of Next Meeting: 10am on Tuesday 18 May 2021		