TUDOR ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

**6:00pm Monday 2nd October 2023 at 289 Kings Road, Kingston upon Thames**

# MINUTES

1. **Those attending and apologies**

Present were Paul Hay (PH) Lynn Boyd (LB), Peter Brown (PB), Jim Turner (JT), Julia Cork (JC), Richard Post (RP), Jonny Hoare (JH), Nathalie Ashbee (NA) and Chris Ridout (CR).

1. **Minutes of meeting of 23rd June and matters arising (not dealt with below)**

It was noted that a Gmail address had been set up and registered with KFAG. CR can send a link to anyone who wishes to use the account to communicate with 3rd parties without using their personal email address.

1. **Treasurer’s report  
   Confirmation of plot rental for 2024 (as discussed at last meeting)**

LB shared the current financial position. Water bills had been higher than expected, although we had been overcharged for waste water and were hoping for a rebate. The most recent bill for Wolsey Drive (WD) was some £2,500. LB had negotiated monthly billing and both sites were requested to submit monthly readings. To be undertaken by JT for Park Road (PR) and RP for WD.

It was agreed to increase the plot rental to £12 per rod from 2024, as discussed at the previous committee meeting. LB had projected that in 2024 our major bills would be £4,000 (water) and £1,500 (rent and insurance). She anticipated a modest surplus for next year, but further annual increases in the plot rental might be required, and it was suggested plot holders be made aware of this when informed of the increase planned for 2024.

LB had investigated putting the money in our maintenance reserve in an interest-bearing account but felt that the interest earned was not enough to justify the inconvenience of moving the money around.

(*discussion re RBK surveyor’s visit: see under AOB*)

1. **Banking methods**

CR asked about the possibility of making electronic payments. LB was reluctant to do so as it would require two people logging onto the online bank account to validate payments.

1. **Key deposits (PH)**

Following on from the above CR raised the questions of how to return key deposits to plot holders when they gave up their plots. At PR JT maintained a reserve of petty cash for this purpose. After some discussion it was proposed the WD set up a similar arrangement. RP would be responsible for holding the cash, and WD supervisors felt a lower deposit would suffice as their keys were cheaper.

1. **75% plot cultivation proposal (PH)**

PH proposed that it be a requirement that all plot holders cultivate at least 75% of their plots during the growing season (approximately April to October). Similar requirements are common on other allotment sites. The committee agreed to the proposal.

1. **Site specifics:**
   1. **Park Road**

JT reported that sheds were being better maintained. Rainwater was being collected from the roofs of the toilet and KHS buildings. Plot holders would be encouraged to clear paths. Trees in Parkgate House bordering our site still required attention. An approach had been made from the playgroup at Forward House about having a small plot for the children to cultivate. Concerns were expressed about their safety on site if cars were present. JT would discuss their requirements further.

* 1. **Wolsey Drive** 
     1. **Use of KHS huts**

JT advised that there were still some items to be removed from the buildings before they could be used by WD. Some chemicals needed to be disposed of. The roof may require attention on one of the buildings.

* + 1. **plot clearance working party**

the 4 sites supervisors at WD had had a meeting to discuss the management of Sid’s plots. The issue of plot holders using power tools for community purposes was raised. PB offered to share a template used by the UK Men’s Sheds Association which might be useful.

1. **A.O.B.**

PH and JT had dealt with a surveyor from RBK who had come to inspect the sites. Fears were raised about whether RBK had other plans for the sites. JH was considering if the sites could be listed as Assets of Community Value although this designation is usually used for privately owned property, and it is debatable whether RBK could or would list their own land. The possibility of discussions with our local MP and councilors was raised.

1. **Date and place of next meeting**

25th March 2024 committee meeting

26th April for AGM

Venues to be confirmed