

**Minutes of the meeting of the Ickleton Allotment Association
Monday 26th September 2017**

Committee members present

Iain Livingstone
Chris Demmer
Lorraine Demmer
Kathleen Woolverton
Ros Dowrick

Others present

Stephen Woolverton
Terry Nelson
Trevor Barwood
Ray Szajewski

Apologies

Jon Dowrick
Lizzie and Hugh Molloy

1. Minutes of the meeting – 21st August

These were agreed.

2. Plot vacancies

Whole plots -5,8,26,34
Half plots- 2a,2b,13b
Plots 7 and 18 have recently been taken.

3. Treasurer's report

We are approximately £320 in credit. After strimming, another can of petrol has been purchased, but that and a small amount owed to Ros for keys, has been offset by new plotholders. We have very few expenses for the rest of the year, £250 being the predicted surplus. We pay a monthly direct debit for the water.

4. Mowing/Strimming

We had another very successful strimming session on 3rd September. When instructing on the use of the strimmer, it was agreed Chris will explain the necessity of leaving a margin near to fences because it is possible to cut the wire by accident with a fixed blade. There will be no more sessions this year. It is a requirement in the tenancy agreement that plotholders keep their boundaries weed free.

5. Advertising

Trevor suggested we open an Instagram page as a free means of promoting ourselves via social media. He has agreed to take charge of this and will come up with a profile for the next meeting.

The website is still the main source of information for new recruits. Iain will check to see whether it is up to date.

6. Rats/Rabbits

Rats had eaten some sweetcorn on various plots recently, but there appears to have been no further damage.

7. Water

Stephen has replaced the tap handle for the standpipe near the car park. He will take a meter reading at the end of October when he turns the water off and at the same time remove the handle for the winter.

8. Plant/Seed Swap

We will continue to start the meetings with a plant/seed/produce swap as this has been so successful. We continue to encourage donations for these, to be added to allotment funds.

AOB

9. Subs

The committee will clarify payment of fees for those who take on a plot from June to December with a simple policy which will be ready for the New Year.

10. No trees are allowed on plots as per the tenancy agreement. Fruit bushes are permitted.

11. Iain, Chris and Stephen will burn the rubbish at the bottom of the field later this week.

12. Ray expressed an interest in being on the committee. He was proposed by Terry and seconded by Iain.

13. Please email Ros if you would be interested in purchasing a water container- £20 each - contributions to allotment funds.

14. Seed Catalogues 2018

These are available in the communal shed. **Please note if you have collected a catalogue and do not have an order form, these are now in the shed.** All completed forms should be returned to Lorraine by the end of October – 8 Southfield, Ickleton.

15. Rainwater catcher

Thank you to Stephen and Tim for filling the holes in where the barrels from the water catcher have been removed near the car park and the communal shed.

16. Manure

Thanks to Kathleen for finding out that any amount of free soil improver can be obtained from Amey Recycling, Ely Road, Waterbeach – tel 01223 861010. Please take your own shovel and bags. Cost to have it delivered to our site would be approximately £100 + vat for 4.5/5 tons.

17. Chairperson

As it would be preferable to have a Chairperson residing in Ickleton, Iain will write to all Ickleton ploholders as a first step, to explain what is involved.

Date of next meeting – Monday 13th November at **7.30pm** in the Ickleton Lion.