

BILLINGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of committee meeting that was held on 25th January 2016 at 7.00pm in the village hall Billinge.

Members please note contained below is the abridged version of the meetings minutes.

The meeting was opened by our chairman John Holt, present at the meeting were:

William Reeves, Tom Hodgson, Richard Steele, Steve Owen, Dean Buckley, Ken Forber, Duncan Chesworth, Peter Mitchell and Cllr Dennis Mc Donnell. Brian Heaton apologised in advance and would be arriving late.

Also two members were again welcomed to the meeting, Sandra Booth and Tom Murphy.

Minutes of last meeting

Owing to long schedule ahead the committee agreed that the minutes would be taken 'as read' and were duly signed off.

BHS Insurance for members

Various options read out by the chairman, secretary put forward members' requests following our recent members' survey as to which insurance provider they all preferred.

Members views in favoured RHS. Secretary asked if this provides everyone with good cover and good value. The general consensus is yes. The chairman will proceed and order the policy, a year's cover.

NOTE: Survey of members' opinions and suggestions returned seven replies.

Disabled Groups update

Secretary made contact with Safe Hands group and forwarded budget costs for ground works, poly tunnel and shed facilities. Secretary produced drawings and plans as initial idea sent to Lynne Crozier from Safe Hands. Ken Forber's work and alternative site plan tabled. Secretary has tried to contact our other group (coalition of disabled people), still awaiting response. Cllr Mc Donnell will suggest to both groups that they need to work together to move forward both projects. Use of toilet facility discussed. Our own much needed facility not adequate for these groups.

Toilet cost nothing, gift from Brian Heaton, secretary organised servicing, cost very approx. £1.00 per week.

Not in minutes but important for us to all note: All our members are entitled to have a clean useable facility. This we now have, Brian Heaton was thanked at a previous meeting for his

gift but thank you again sir. Ken Forber and John Holt levelled it, your secretary checked it was level and organised the emptying and replenishment.

Your secretary takes great comfort in having the toilet next to him, great comfort. It keeps the wind of my Damsons and I don't have far to run.

Drainage Update

Secretary passed round a quote from a local land drainage contractor, secretary met contractor on site with Richard Steele.

£3,964.50 costing for drainage work. On-going more work needed, secretary will contact our land owners, members asked about what happened with the proposed joint working group to discuss our issues, secretary will try to arrange a meet with the Trust, on-going.

Vacant plots

Currently 23 and 32 are available the secretary had no reply, no reply to recent email asking if members wanted to move to either of them. The secretary asked permission to offer them out to the next two names on our waiting list, committee members agreed.

Elections to BHS Committee

CLlr Dennis tabled a document 'Procedure for the election of the Billinge Horticultural Society Committee', as an aid to the committee and all our membership. All present read and discussed the procedure, the secretary would send this out to all members.

The secretary will inform all members as to the date of the forthcoming AGM. And send out the document.

Initially booked for 4th April, secretary will confirm with Mr Tom Kelly, once date is booked members will be informed. (NOW CONFIRMED AS 11th APRIL 2016.)

Treasurers Report

Our treasurer Tom Hodgson read out the current financial position, no spending, RHS insurance premium to pay.

Ken Forber raised the vexed question of plot rates differentials, secretary and other members agreed the square metre rate should all be the same, members in general agreement. The secretary pointed out that we need a meeting with the trust to discuss the rate, tie in with drainage meeting.

Secretary will contact the trust and arrange an early meeting, CLlr Dennis McDonnell, Tom Hodgson, John Holt were also asked to attend. All agreed.

Correspondence

Secretary outlined fourteen members ' letters', trenches outside fence, renting plots enquires, insurance feedback (a staggering seven members noted above replied to the insurance choice and details I sent out). Election to committee letter. A BIG THANK YOU from a member for all the committee is doing to help them and A BIG THANK YOU for all our ongoing work, nice that.

A member has damaged the path with his vehicle again! Visitors to meeting enquiry.

A.O.B.

Members agreed no more chip bark deliveries until further notice.

Concerns over Council manure, John Holt has sourced VIOLA site in Runcorn as a supplier.

Secretary has not pushed the local supplier because of weather and flooding issues, his original delivery plan was ill timed and secretary put him off.

Members concerned over quality of suggested source from VIOLA secretary suggested we should obtain a decent amount and trial it on our community plot. Members agreed with trial.

Two dates put up:

Monday 29th February 2016 as the date of your next committee meeting Monday 4th April 2016 as the date of your AGM (NOW CONFIRMED AS 11th APRIL 2016.)

William Reeves
Secretary