

# GRAVEL PIT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

## gravelpitalotments.org.uk

## Minutes

Meeting held at 2.00 pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at Michael's house, Meltonby

### PRESENT

Suzanne Allan (Chair)  
 Denise Mitchell (Secretary and minute taker)  
 Michael Atkinn (Treasurer)  
 Andy Hancock

### APOLOGIES

Steve Oxley

		Action
1.	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> Not seen.	
2.	<b>Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suzanne queried need to do signs requesting plot holders to shut gates as this has not been a problem. Agreed. Denise to do email covering several topics including a reminder to shut gates if last to leave.</li> </ul>	Denise
3.	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael gave us a print out of bank transactions to date</li> <li>Unexpected invoice for £84 received for transporting and delivering water butts. Thought this was in kind. Need to establish whether work will be billed in future before it's carried out.</li> <li>Agreed to ring fence money received for filling water butts and any other specific bills. Michael will set up a deposit account for this purpose.</li> <li>Not much money left – need to be even more careful.</li> </ul>	
4.	<b>Financials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve had requested funding for some items be discussed (see below).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>metal gates, bench and flagstones – nice to have but not priority</li> <li>extra 1000ltr water butts to connect to wc downpipe. Agreed to move one from Communal plot and from other plot for now.</li> <li>rotavator and brush cutter – nice to have but some concerns about maintenance, fuel and insurance costs. Could borrow if necessary.</li> <li>request PC to buy a bench and install on the verge outside the allotments – see later.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed that drainage a priority. Field still boggy in places and some complaints from ploholders. Drain is in bottom corner going into adjacent field. Farmer will not allow access to do work and has not done it himself. Cows going back into the field so some concern that drains might be damaged anyway. Some discussion about a “mole” machine to dig remotely and simultaneously lay pipe. Possibly as a community project for building company. Would still need farmer’s permission. Costings needed before any action can be taken.</li> <li>• Topsoil – several complaints received – poor quality and not graded. Suzanne to write to suppliers as was very expensive (£10,440).</li> <li>• Other sources of funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coop have a community fund and we bank with them</li> <li>○ Re-approach lottery</li> <li>○ Car boot</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Suzanne
5.	<p><b>Plot Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dangerous water butt has been taken down</li> <li>• Some plots untended and docks are growing. Committee members have been knocking tops off docks. Need to keep communal and empty plots clear. Committee to meet Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00 pm to weed.</li> <li>• Interest expressed in a plot but no agreement or payment received – Denise to follow up.</li> <li>• Some plots not gardened – Denise to check if plot holders still want plot.</li> <li>• Water butts can be filled for £5. Then water will be turned off. Denise to email plot holders.</li> <li>• Manure/compost. Originally thought that this would initially be unnecessary as new topsoil. However, topsoil quality poor so needs to be enriched. Committee concerned that manure/compost containing weedkillers not brought onto site. Please take reasonable precautions to check source of manure that no weedkillers – eg aminopyralid – have been used. Plot holders could consider green manure.</li> <li>• Suzanne to put leaflet concerning aminopyralid and and green manures on notice board.</li> <li>• Committee to try and source manure supply</li> <li>• Keys for composting toilet available for £5.00 deposit. Michael to put in deposit account to be ringfenced.</li> <li>• Denise to send email to all plot holders about all of above.</li> </ul>	Suzanne  Michael  Denise
6.	<p><b>Insurance</b> Cover in place</p>	
7.	<p><b>Parish Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding correspondence with Parish Clerk, Suzanne to write again highlighting relevant passages of our 5-year plan.</li> <li>• Planning documents – PC has statutory duty to keep documents. Suzanne to write.</li> <li>• PC instrumental in developing allotments and Committee acknowledge and</li> </ul>	Suzanne

	thank them and will invite PC to visit plot, perhaps one evening before PC meeting.	
8.	<b>Thank you letters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denise to draft letter</li> <li>• To all who've helped including Lottery, ERYC, suppliers, PC. All to come up with names</li> <li>• Also acknowledge on website</li> </ul>	
9.	<b>Official Opening</b> Michael was waiting until we heard about charitable status before writing invite. We do not meet criteria so will not be charity. He will invite HRH Prince Charles and, if he's not available, local MP, Greg Knight.	
10	<b>Any Other Business</b> Andy talked to Geoff Shepherd, Pocklington Councillor with responsibility for allotments about developments there.	
10.	<b>Next Meeting</b> Time/date to be confirmed depending on opening day	