

WEAR SIDE-SMALLHOLDERS

(website: shieldsroadallotments.info)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 21st May 2023

ATTENDED BY: Mr I. Hornsey; Mr J. Searle; Mr G. Arnott; Mr P. Larcombe;
Mrs. J. Palmer; Mr J. Smurthwaite; Ms G Clifford.

APOLOGIES: Mr P. Hutchinson

1. Minutes of previous meeting approved (minor amendments), any matters below.
Minutes to be published.
2. Correspondence – None.
3. Finances – Monies as in the bank.

4. Business

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- 4.1 **Entrance maintenance.** Decorative entrance tubs have been requested along with a nature corridor - both looked on favourably by the Council. **(Action: I. Hornsey)**.
- 4.2 **Banking.** Updating banking details and arrangements – in progress. Investigation continues with the bank regarding previous correspondence. **(Action: I. Hornsey)**.
- 4.3 **Shields Road Trees.** Have now been addressed by the Council. An email expressing thanks for this work (whilst mentioning the timescale that has been involved) was sent to the Council.
- 4.4 **Water theft.** No further illicit activity reported by everyone should remain vigilant.
- 4.5 **Noticeboards.** A date for notice erection and noticeboard repair will be arranged soon. **(Action: I. Hornsey)**
- 4.6 **Water Harvesting/Composting.** Some potential funding projects have been contacted but our ideas lie outside their remit. Ongoing investigation and discussion with potential organisations and fund holders. Ongoing. **(Action: G. Arnott)**
- 4.7 . **Unworked gardens.** Some evictions are in progress by the Council. Plot holders should know that **all instances** are actively being attended to. Where there are 'extenuating circumstances' these are known to the Secretary (and Committee where necessary) and will be responded to empathetically and appropriately.

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- 4.8 **Toilet.** The reported toilet breakdown has been repaired, however a new one has been reported. This will be actioned urgently. **(Action: I. Hornsey)**
- 4.9 **Taps.** Tap repairs have been completed. However a new tap malfunction was reported at the meeting. This will be actioned urgently. **(P. Larcombe)**
- 4.10 **Fly Tipping.** Council to be approached to remove the fly tipped waste by the midway car park. **Given the Council's previous demands that gates should be closed according to the Tennant's Agreement (which continues to be abused) it cannot be assumed that it will remove the waste, and the Committee may have to arrange and pay for this.**
- 4.11 **Assistance network.** Anyone who is struggling with maintaining their garden, for whatever reason, is encouraged to contact the Secretary (or a Committee member). We will work out a way forward, and if necessary, try to find temporary assistance (e.g. from the volunteer group that has been previously announced). You are encouraged to avoid worry about your plot if you are in difficulty, and speak to the Secretary/Committee immediately.
- 4.12 **Volunteers.** Volunteers are still sought to compose a small band of people willing to be called upon when some gardeners (because of illness etc.) need limited support to bring their gardens back into order. A small group is also needed to plan and maintain the expected Council provided planters that will be set at the allotment entrance. Anyone who wishes to volunteer should contact the Secretary (garden volunteers) Graeme Arnott (planter volunteers). A notice has been posted at the main noticeboard regarding this and the relevant contacts. **(Action: I. Hornsey: G.Arnott)**
- 4.13 **Theft.** A dismantled greenhouse that was due to be erected has been stolen from a plot on the waterworks site. Any information would be welcomed. Everyone should remain vigilant.
- 4.14 **AGM.** Still awaiting notification of new rent from Council, and Water Rates. Then this can be arranged.

Date of Next Meeting: June 18th 2023