MIDSOMER NORTON COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING – 26/11/2015

1 Present John Martin (Chair)

Irene Martin

Adele Draper

Brian Snellgrove

Francoise Sauze

Jane and Gerald Payne

Vic and Susan Russell

Kath Lanning

2 Welcome and Apologies

John welcomed all present particularly new members. Apologies had been received from Andy Broadhurst.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The previous meetings minutes had been circulated. Letters had been sent, via email to Claire Turner, plot 45, and Mr Spiller, plot 24. Claire Turner had replied in strong terms stating they had improved the plot and it was her intention to continue with the plot and was ordering seeds to that end. John said he would chat with Claire Turner explaining the letter was sent on behalf of the Association not in a personal capacity.

The Minutes were then approved.

4 Association Officers

Following the AGM the officers of the Association were listed as follows:-

Chair John Martin

Treasurer Andy Broadhurst

Secretary Brian Snellgrove

Web Officer Adele Draper

Site Officer Gerald Payne

John thanked everyone for volunteering for the various positions.

Adele stated she would assist with transferring the Secretaries ‘data base’ from Carol to Brian, Adele and Brian to arrange a mutually convenient date.

5 Treasurers Report

Since the total stated at the AGM £1299.29

Received in plot rentals £850.00

Outstanding payments to Council Annual Rental £805.00

Share of groundwork costs for water troughs £250.00

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It was pointed out that there had been a misunderstanding when the invoices for plot rental had been issued, the last date for payment was stated as Dec 31st 2015, previous years this had been Oct 31st. It was felt that this would be no great problem due to time of year.

6 Site Officers Report

As Gerald had newly taken on the role, John asked members of the committee for their comments.

Plot 24 reported as a mess!

Plot 65 needed a watching brief

7 Waiting List

Number on waiting list stated as 7. This number includes Mr Kingman, 69 Radstock Road, who had refused several offers of plots, at a previous meeting it had been agreed that Mr Kingman should go to the bottom of the list despite having waited the longest time.

Vacant plots 6, includes plots 13, 33, 43 and 55, it was expected that more plots would be identified as payment deadline passed. When Brian is ‘in harness’ as secretary, John and Brian would discuss and offer vacant plots on a first come first served basis.

8 Shed for Association use at Allotments

This topic was discussed at some length, it was the majority view that the sale of seeds, compost and other items was unlikely to be practical at present. A shed as a focal point for produce and seed swap and also social events was a more constructive use for any future shed.

John said he would measure up the area for a concrete base below plot 3 and pass the measurements on to the Town Clerk

9 Matters Arising from the AGM

Rats The Town Clerk reported that he would persue the Pest Control Dept. at BANES for update on future action.

Tree and Hedge Trimming. The Town Clerk had replied stating he would contact the contractor used at the site to trim the hedge on the upper Radstock side of the site, in the meanwhile plot holders should feel free to cut any overhanging branches they could safely reach.

10 Any Other Business

The Association ‘prize’ for the improved In Bloom rating was a bag of daffodil bulbs, Kath and Francoise volunteered to plant the bulbs.

John thanked all present and closed the meeting.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was agreed as 14th March 2016.