**SMAA Quarterly Meeting 04/12/24 Minutes**

1. **Linking with Broughton Road Allotment Association.**

As previously discussed, it is more beneficial for us to keep association meetings separate as this allows us a more organised approach to focus individually on each association’s issues. Individual reports are also collated and published.

1. **Improving paths – Emma has suggested that we speak to Joel from Trinity who has looked at grants for this in the past. We discussed whether we have the resources to apply for grants and carry out research and planning for something like this. We felt in light of the small committee we have now this isn’t really an option. It would need to be led by STC.**

Unfortunately, Skipton Town Council are not eligible to apply for any grants or funding for the allotments. These would have to be applied for by the association as a registered charity / community group. Previous funds have been allocated to us through S106 funds, distributed by local building developers with ongoing projects. There are currently not any in the area that qualify this funding for Middletown allotments. A list of available funds for application has been provided along with these minutes.

1. **Break ins – is there anything more we can all be doing.**

Ensuring the main gates remain locked. SMAA have also purchased a wildlife camera which will be erected and monitored on their plot.

1. **Tree stump removal – it’s great this is now out. What are the plans for levelling the area?**

The area will be levelled early next year when the area dries out so access can be made with the tractor. Once levelled, the area will become very muddy unless a hardcore surface is placed. SMAA to look for funding for this area in addition to hardcore and instillation of communal paths in the area.

1. **Problem of rubbish being left by the gate – bigger signs, skip?**

We have placed the wildlife camera in this area for now to see if we can pick up who keeps leaving the waste there. We can also make a larger sign.

1. **We want to check the expenditure amounts of water usage – there’s quite a big difference for 22/23 as compared with other years. Is there a reason for this. Is there anything that can be done to reduce water usage further to help rents – leaks, discounts for people using water butts, mending tap.**

Billings for the year 22/23 were done but estimates. These were not accurate and the bills should have been higher. This was then amended and the rates also increased significantly in the following year.

1. **Will there be a sign going up about wildlife project / cameras in operation soon - this might help as a deterrent**

These signs have already been erected.

1. **Vacancies and waiting list numbers and plans for the site.**

We currently have 3 plots available and 7 people on the waiting list.

1. **Compost toilet fund – Has a change of funds been applied for?**

Angie Hayes has applied to NYCC for the compost toilet shed fund (£300) to be used by the association for a different use, as the toilet is no longer being installed. An email response has been received from NYCC to approve them to keep the money and use this for another purpose as they wish.