

Skipton Middletown Allotment Association

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 12/9/23, 10.30am The Hub

Present:, Angie, Jeff, Mags, Neville, Deborah (BRAA), Michelle, Marissa

Apologies Ann, David, Christine

Matters arising from October meeting minutes :

Information about SMAA and BRAA is on the counter at STC for people to take. Mags to ask Emma if its possible to be more proactive and include the envelope with a copy of the tenancy agreement for new tenants. AGM minutes proposed by Jeff, seconded by Neville.

Treasurer report:

- we have £671.31 in the bank. Stock (compost) £32. Angie mentioned the £300 grant money has been paid now.

Secretary Report: -

- currently we have 27 members starting from august and we're all registered with the National Association now.
- Seed catalogues have been circulated. Mags will coordinate BRAA's orders as well. **Seed orders to Mags by 1/10/23**

Skipton Town Council links and issues -Jeff went to the meeting with Dale and Emma in August. Discussion involved

- Problems with rats – plan is for NYC property manager to meet with Emma and tenants will be notified of when the rat control person is visiting to try to ensure plots can be accessed. Michelle would be happy to put together some guidance she got about “rat proofing” an allotment.
- Rubbish near gate - Dale and Mark are removing this. Thank you!
- Obstruction posts – requests can be made to STC and Mark for this to be taken down as needed.
- 3rd party Insurance - STC don't require this as part of rental. It is optional. We want to make it clear that joining SMAA and NSALG allows people to purchase low cost 3rd party insurance. Angie to check cost of this if plot holders had to purchase their own insurance.
- Plot measurements – There hasn't been an annual rent increase but 20 plots have had adjustments to full rent rather than half rent. We haven't had confirmation of how the 100 m2 cut off for a half plot was reached. We decided we'd work with BRAA to take this question forwards
- Allotment inspections – these are ongoing and notices are being given for plots that are overgrown. Issue raised about effect of overgrown plots on neighbours. Jeff to raise this with STC. We are concerned about cost of clearance being added onto rents.
- Next full council meeting 16 November

Hub:

- We are going to have a **maintenance day on Saturday 28th October, 11am onwards**. Drinks and butties will be available. So bring your paintbrush or spade and come along!.

AOB:

- Potato day. We decided it isn't possible to have our own potato day but we will have an **outing to go to the Saltaire Potato Day which will be held late Jan / Feb. We'll send details when we get them.**
- Blooms garden centre, Broughton Road are offering a 15% discount for SMAA and BRAA members. Mags to check how best to do this but we hope to be able to email you a membership confirmation to enable you to get the discount as soon as possible.
- BRAA are having their next meeting on Monday 30th October, 7pm at the Railway pub.

Next meeting: Wednesday 29th November 6pm at the Hub.