

MINUTES – Meopham and District Allotments Association (MDAA)	
Chair: Mark Hill	
Date	22nd March from 19:30 to 21:50
Venue	Zoom
Attendees	David Aspinall, Rodney Buckland, Mark Hill, Tadek Lapper, Robin Lee, Steve Shipway, Lindy Webster

Item No.		Action
1	Welcome and Apologies Mark Hill (MH) welcomed everyone to the meeting. A dictionary of initials is provided as a footnote.	
2	Minutes of previous meeting on 21st February 2022 Several omissions and alterations were proposed by MH. All were agreed and RB will incorporate them into a revised edition.	RB
3	Matters Arising RB agreed to ask Meopham Parish Council (MPC) whether there is any objection to MDAA not continuing its membership of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG). It was agreed that prices of a new gate, fencing and a composting toilet would be sought for possible presentation to the upcoming AGM after further discussion in committee.	RB MH/RAB
4	Chair's Report MH reported that the gate had been repaired and that receipts for expenses would be provided to DA. It was noted that a request had been received to turn on the water supply early. This was agreed. MH to liaise with David Brown. DA asked for water meter readings to be taken at the end of each month for better management of water supply charges. RB agreed to supply to MH for colour printing several additions for the noticeboards.	MH MH MH RB/MH

	MH summarised his observations of a recent incident, articulated on the Association's Facebook page and in several telephone calls and email messages. In essence, David Brown had taken the initiative to plant circa 200 daffodil bulbs in the immediate surroundings of the plots area and had asked via Facebook for any mowing to avoid the daffodils while they were 'in season'. Although this request had been noted by SS, his subsequent mowing activity did not take the desired care of the daffodil display. After some heated exchanges, SS and MH agreed to disagree about the chronology and substance of MH's observations. MH proposed that the matter be 'parked' and discussed at a later date. This was agreed.	
5	Secretary's Report RB reported that he was surprised to find that one large and two small loads of manure had arrived on site before he had ordered any from 'Jamie and Maria'. It was suggested that Julian Kent had ordered the large load without informing the committee and that the small loads would have been supplied by 'Scalers Hill', who have a gate key. RB reported that he had been asked by the new Parish Clerk to provide a report on the status and prospects of the Association. RB reported that a group from the <i>Meopham U3A BeeWatch Network</i> had conducted the first traverse of their 2022 observation campaign and it had been found that numerous (too many to log) bumble bees were found in the long grass to the East of the plots area. RB proposed that an AGM be held on Saturday 30th April in the small hall at Meopham Village Hall. It was noted that this room could accommodate 50 attendees and had a serving hatch to the kitchen, thereby allowing refreshments to be served – particularly cake.	RB RB RB
6	Treasurer's Report	

	DA reported that Margaret Couchman had agreed to audit the accounts and that the Association had generated a profit of £19,170 for the 21-22 financial year. It was agreed that £5,000 would be added to the Sinking Fund. DA advised that after a thorough review, no change had been made to the water supplier.	DA DA
7	Lettings Manager's Report TL was warmly welcomed as the Association's new Lettings Manager TL reported that there were four vacant plots and ten applicants in the queue. RB noted that three additional applicants were not noted in TL's list. RB agreed to find out the status of plot 9D, formerly assigned to Jim French, who now resides in Eire. DA reported that the holders of plots 17E and 4B had been given a deadline of 27th March to pay their annual rental fees. It was agreed that TL and RB would conduct a 'Soft Weed Walk' to update the committee's awareness of plot status.	RB RB TL/RB
8	Webmaster's Report RB reported that the Association would not be incurring any exorbitant ISP fees this year and that a new website would be launched in the coming months.	RB
9	Maintenance LW reported that David Brown had refurbished plot numbers where necessary on plots with posts.	
10	Health and Safety No specific items were raised.	
11	AOB and Next Meeting It was noted that there had been complaints on Facebook about bonfires.	RB

