

MDAA Committee meeting 10/11/25

Agenda and Matters Arising

Welcome to the new committee

A relaxed introduction by the members of the new committee

Communication with Meopham Parish Council

It was agreed to contact MPC to foster good relations and arrange contact asap. MW produced an email informing MPC of the new committee, which was amended and agreed. This email will be sent to MPC.

Internal Communication, email addresses and security

Concern was expressed regarding access to emails in light of the previous Treasurer/Secretary incident, and best practise in order to ensure GDPR standards are maintained. It was agreed that we urgently needed to contact the previous Chair and Secretary informing them of the vote and make-up of the new committee. This is to both inform but also request the return of MDAA data they may hold.

How do we communicate with Plot Holders and our Facebook policy

Discussion on how best to communicate progress with Plot Holders was had. This included the managing of the Website, with redacted minutes from meetings published, RE agreed to be an administrator working on improving the Website, so ensuring at least two people have administration access, RE to arrange this with RB.

MB presented a Facebook policy which set out clear guidelines as to how people can/can't use the Facebook group, its tone was very good, being positive and upbeat, while also clear on challenging negativity and agendas incompatible with an allotment group. MB to publish this on the Facebook page.

Tenancy Agreement, update and changes

The current tenancy agreement was presented, there were few amendments, the most pressing the change in fee to £40. Other amendments were clarity on unattended mains hosepipes and that large IBC water containers were to be filled with rain water not from the mains. It was also agreed to give first offer to a deceased plot holders plot to their family provided they are in the prescribed post codes, this being a respectful and human consideration that we should offer. The changes were minimal and should not hold up the renewal process. MB agreed to update the agreement with a new date to avoid confusion with previous copies, Lettings to hold the current original, to avoid future confusion over updates.

GDPR

There was a brief discussion, as well as the changes previously mentioned which improve restrictions to access to personal data, limiting abuse. We recognised that it would be best to have a discussion with an expert in this field. FE thinks she knows one. To be discussed at next meeting.

Water update

IC presented a large water bill of £1997.61 which he is planning to arrange scheduled payments for. This prompted the inclusion of changes to mains water usage on the Tenancy Agreement. Water is a major cost and anything Plot Holders can do to reduce water consumption is greatly appreciated.

Constitution, how best to proceed

It was agreed for this to be the priority item at the next meeting. To provide working copies for the next meeting so that we could collectively write an up-to-date constitution fit for purpose.

Improvements to the allotments

Discussion was had on how to tackle allotments not to standard. FE said she had communicated to plot holders of such plots, GO suggested working parties to support Lettings in getting new tenants by making them respectable, weeding, addressing beds, overgrowth maintenance etc. It was suggested we make this regular, say first Sunday in the month, invite other Plot Holders to join in by making it fun; tea cake etc.

FE updated where lettings are on the current plot holders list.

A Plot Holder has made an offer to supply quality pallets (£2 each). GO and FE to discuss with him how best to do this, as it is likely to be very popular.

There was a brief discussion on a social event early next year.