

Row Gardens Allotment Group - Ripplingale

Minutes of Meeting Held at the Bull Inn, Ripplingale, 19.30 Tuesday 12th June 2007

Present:

Brian Cook, Barry Flatters, Ian Middleton, John & Pauline Warman, Angela & Nigel Adams, Dave Harris & Phil Read, Simon Goode, Emma Newsome, Andrew Flatters, Charlotte Farnham Smith.

Apologies:

Brian Martin, Paul Rice, Christine Williams, Steve Langman, Chris Petz.

1 Amendment to Constitution:

- 1.1 Members confirmed that they had read John's resume of the current situation with the constitution (see Agenda) and had no comments.
- 1.2 John explained why the amendments were needed and briefly went through them with the members. There were no objections or alterations.
- 1.3 The amendments were accepted unanimously – proposed Angela Adams, seconded Barry Flatters.

2 Secretary:

- 2.1 John explained that he had to stand down from the post of Secretary with immediate effect due to ill health (instructions from his doctor).
- 2.2 A vote of thanks was motioned by the Chairman.
- 2.3 Simon Goode volunteered to take on the post of Secretary and was accepted unanimously. He will hold the post of Secretary/Treasurer.
- 2.4 John agreed take the minutes of this meeting as his last duty.

3 Grants:

- 3.1 John explained that the application for grants situation was not as clear cut as it was 18 months ago. The LCC grant is now only once a year and the next round is not due until February/March 2008. The Welland Community Grant Pot will only fund half the project, but the closing date for their next round is 31st July 2007. As the RPC have an outstanding application for a Lottery Grant for the allotments it was uncertain if this was currently a viable route.
- 3.2 Grant application forms have been received from all three and it was suggested that a Grant Sub Committee be formed to make the applications.

4 Letter from RPC:

- 4.1 The letter received from the RPC (dated 23 May 2007) in reply to the RGAG letter (dated 30 April 2007) requesting clarification of the RPC letter dated April 2007 had been circulated to all members. It was not a full reply to the questions raised. John reported that Christine had asked the meeting to be informed that she had written requesting clarification as to why the small amount of land to complete plots 9 to 14 had not been released, and instead of a reply to her question she had been told that she had been given first choice of the reclaimed land when the trees had been cleared.
- 4.2 Angela suggested that instead of a single letter being written from the RGAG members should write independently. She offered to take any letters to the next council meeting this coming Thursday (14 June).

4.3 Suggestions were made on utilising remaining available land – see AOB

5 Pests on the Allotments:

5.1 Many tenants had had problems with animal damage to their crops. Although rabbits have been seen most of the damage appears to be by pheasants or deer.

5.2 A general discussion was held and the best ways of protecting the crops were suggested as netting, and/or dusting with lime.

6 AOB

6.1 It was suggested that the small triangle of land below plots 2 and 3 be cultivated to keep the weeds down. It was pointed out that this had already been agreed at the meeting of 1st November 2006 (see meeting notes from 1st November 2006, item 4) and Steve Langman had agreed to take on the land below plots 1,2 and three. Christine Williams was to take on the land adjacent to her plot above 6 and 7. (Currently Andrew Flatters has taken on the land below his allotment (Plot 1), and Christine is intending to expand sideways as agreed.) Steve Langman is to be approached re the triangle below plots 2 & 3.

6.2 Phil Read informed the meeting that there was an overgrown allotment plot to the allotments side of the wooded area and suggested that it could be brought into use. It was pointed out that currently the RGAG did not yet have permission to use any of that land and this would have to be requested from the RPC. This will be done.

6.3 Phil Read offered to help clear the scrub/weeds from the unused areas. It was agreed that a 'trimmer' meeting would be held, possibly on a Monday evening. All were in favour of this and Angela is to organise.

6.4 Nigel suggested that targets should be set for the forthcoming year. It was agreed that a water supply should be one of the first priorities.

6.5 Andrew has donated a lawnmower for use by the members, and it is currently kept in Barry's shed. Any member wishing to use it needs to supply fuel. Andrew also has a heavy roller that can be used by the members.

The meeting closed at 20.30

Agenda – Tue 12 June 07 – 19.30 hrs – Bull

1 Amendment to Constitution

Resume of current situation with the constitution

Initially (October/November 2005) the constitution was on our first list of 'things to do'. It was intended that our agreement with the RPC (also on the same list) would be written into the constitution and we would become a 'Self Administering Association/Group'.

Despite numerous requests to the RPC no agreement was forthcoming from them even though they wanted us to do everything to run the allotment site. After their letter of 31 March 2006 we decided to take one thing at a time and concentrate on the individual tenancy agreements first.

After receiving the 'final' tenancy agreements (August 2006) I personally gave up the will to push for an agreement between the RGAG and the RPC. At this point I should have drafted a constitution on the lines of our current constitution, but unfortunately the allotments were the furthest thing from my mind at the time.

It was March/April this year when I realised that we were still an informal group and hence drafted the current constitution which we ratified in April (making us corporate, or formal).

When reading through the grant application papers that we have received I realised that authorities like to see what provisions are made should an organisation fold, so I drafted the amendments on the table. These will be needed if we apply for a grant ourselves at any time in the future.

If at any time in the future the RGAG should take on any administrative duties for the council then it is covered in the current agreement, HOWEVER if the RGAG should become a self administrating group I would suggest that a new constitution be drafted – there are many examples on the web.

John Warman – Secretary RGAG – 11 June 2007

2 Secretary

3 Grants etc

4 Letter from RPC – etc

5 Pests on the Allotment etc

6 AOB