



Meeting held at Red Scar Lane area of the allotments on Sunday 18 August 2024

Minutes

28 People in attendance

1. **Apologies for absence** received from Kate Anderson, Yvonne Beaton, Alicia Eddon, Pete Everitt, Ken Gill, Colin Glaves, Colin & Sarah Goodall, Chris Huffington, Alison Ireland, Michael King, Ken & Jean Martin, Trevor Teasdale and Sue Ward.
2. **Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting held on the 20 August 2023 which had been circulated with the agenda, were received and approved
3. **Report by the Chairperson on the year's activities:-**

“Firstly, my thanks to committee Sue, Jeremy, Graham, Annette, Diane, Steve, Bob and Trevor. Thanks to Sue for organising everything so well and Annette for lending her facilities.

I would like to extend a welcome to all new plot holders who have joined this year and hope your stay is a happy and productive one.

This year the committee have managed to get the Electricity Board to repair the gully at the Red Scar Lane entrance and members have also filled potholes on both access roads to the plots. Committee member Graham Basil looks after water tanks. If there are any water tank problems, he is the man to contact. I would like to take this opportunity to ask that if the water tank near to you does not have a cover and you are able to do so, please could you make a cover to stop the water evaporating as the water bill for the plots has increased significantly. The Town Council advise that water to the allotments is one of their largest costs and is a factor they consider when determining the rents for plots.

Plot no. 36, (adjacent to plots 44, 35, 29 and 50) has been designated for development as it is hoped that the plot will provide a central area for deliveries, possibly a composting toilet, and an emergency rain shelter. We intend to approach the Duchy to help fund the project and some of the roadway work.

Over the last year there have been a few plots where the tenants have either been ill or failed to cultivate, either because they did not realise how time consuming it can be or from lack of interest. When the plots were eventually vacated, they were extremely overgrown. This has meant that, on some occasions, we have had to pay to have them strimmed. Your committee have had various discussions as how to overcome this happening in the future,



perhaps by having a deposit scheme but this has financial implications for the Clerk. An alternative would be that new plot holders pay 2 years rent in advance and in the event, they leave their plot in a tidy condition they get a partial refund.

On a happier note, we have winners for the Best Plot and Most Improved plot prizes that are awarded by Newby & Scalby Town Council. It has been another year where this decision for best plot has been very difficult with 8 plot holders with very similar scores but unfortunately there can only be one winner and this year it was Anthony Tighe (Plot 16S).

Most Improved plot winner was Jill Grinstead (Plot 21S).

Last year's marrow competition, awarded by the Town Council was won by Brian Atkinson. The chair asked if anyone was intending to enter a marrow for this year's competition and if so to let him know."

4. The election/re-election of Officers and Committee Members (Chairperson, Vice Chairperson & Treasurer and Secretary).

The Chairman advised that the majority existing Officers and Committee Members had indicated that they were willing to serve for another year.

Chair – Mark Richards (Plot 46N)

Vice Chair & Treasurer – Jeremy Smith (plots 72 & 73)

Secretary – Sue Bedford (Plot 18)

Other Members

Graham Basil (Plot 20)

Steve Barnes (Plot 44)

Annette Brayshaw (Plot 78)

Diane Haigh (Plot 60)

Bob Johnson (Plot 19)

Trevor Teasdale (Plot 23N)

AGREED that the above people be re-elected.

It was noted that there could be 10 members on the Committee so there was capacity for an additional member if anyone was interested. Steven Rose (Plot 28N) indicated that he would like to become a member of the Committee. There being no other applicants Steven was moved and duly seconded and those present voted in favour of becoming a member of the Management Committee.

The Chairman advised that after 11 years as Chairman he would be standing down at the 2025 AGM and plot holders may wish to start thinking about whether you wish to be involved developing the allotments in the future.



5. Review and approval of the annual accounts for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

The Chairman reported that the accounts for the last financial year had been prepared and copies were circulated at the meeting. The Treasurer advised he was happy to answer any questions; none were raised

6. The appointment of an Independent Examiner/Auditor of the annual accounts for the 2023/2024 financial year.

It was **AGREED** that John Freeman be appointed as Independent Reviewer. for the next year

7. Motions where at least four weeks' notice has been given.

The Secretary reported that no motions had been received.

8. Future Plans Matters which the Committee had considered are as follows: -

Provision of toilet facilities on the site. As mentioned earlier in the Chairman's report if toilet facilities are to be provided on the site it will be necessary to form an ad-hoc working group to take this matter further. The Chairman advised we would send out a newsletter/email asking for interested parties to get in touch to take this matter further. Discussion took place on whether it would be appropriate to apply for charitable status for FONSA to enable grant applications for funding to be made. Gill Kendall advised that it was a relatively straightforward application, and she would obtain information.

Best arrangements for mowing and maintaining the main paths and communal areas. Once again mowing is a significant component of our rent. We have spent quite a bit of time trying to clarify the mowing contract **BUT** we need the paths to be widened so that the contractor can access all the main north to south paths as well as the car park areas. Your tenancy agreement states that paths around your plot should be a minimum of 2 ft (600mm) wide. Plot holders should also ensure that there is no netting or objects overhanging paths which would snag on machinery.

Improving vehicle access roads to the allotments – volunteers are needed for work party. Are you someone who drives into the plots and are willing to assist with any repairs we carry out to the access roads please contact the Secretary.

Looking at ways to keep plots in a good state – If you are willing to assist in help in clear plots which have been vacated in a poor or helping plot holders who are not able to keep on top of their plot, please let the Secretary know. As mentioned in the Chairman's report we will ask the



Town Council if it is possible to introduce a deposit scheme so that if a plot is vacated in a poor condition there are funds available to get it cleared.

We will also ask the Town Council if it is possible to have quarter plots to assist those plot holders who are not able to continue to work a larger plot.

Gill Kendall asked when the website would be updated and was advised that at present the Chairman was responsible for updating the information on the website, but it was a time-consuming task and asked if there were any plot holders who would be willing to assist him in making the web-site easier to manage.

9 Future Social events -

In the past we used to have a seed meeting in October where seed catalogues were circulated to enable plot holders to get a discount on any seeds they ordered from Fothergills. Fothergills offer the same discount to anyone who purchases seeds online so it is not worth while the Chairman organising a bulk order. Discussion took place on whether those present wished the Secretary to arrange a pie and pea supper at the Rugby Club as a social event and open meeting. It was **AGREED** that the Secretary contact the Rugby Club and obtain prices and a date when we could hold a general meeting followed by a pie and pea supper. Once this information is available details be sent out to all plot holders.

Bob Kendall reminded plot holders of the Horticultural Show which would be taking place in the Parish Hall at the August Bank Holiday weekend. He advised that there was a class for allotment holders and that there was further information in the noticeboards. He also had a couple of booklets he could make available, and these were placed on the table in the marquee.

There was no other business, and the meeting closed at 1.40pm

OPEN FORUM

Discussion took place on structures that had been erected on several plots. The structures referred to were fruit cages and as such not classed as a building. Discussion also took place as to why sheds and greenhouses could not be erected on allotments and the Chairman advised he would ask the Duchy if it was possible to have sheds and greenhouses on plots.

Ann Crinnion asked if the rotavator was going to be repaired as she liked to use it on her plot and the last time she used it, it was not in a good state of repair. The Chairman advised that it was several years old and Bob Kendall said it was difficult to get parts for that type. It was suggested that several plot holders could considered getting together to hire a rotavator from a horticultural supplier. It

**The Friends of
Newby & Scalby
Allotments Group**



**Annual General
Meeting
18 August 2024**

should be noted that whilst we have had no recent burglaries on the allotments plot holders should not tempt fate by leaving valuable machinery on site.