

SENLAC ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
MINUTES FROM MEETING
9th October 2019

Present: Trevor Henning (TH), Anne Gavin (AG), Christine Coleman (CC), Jacqui Post (JP), Fern Burgess (FB), Bernard Brown (BB) and Alan Gavin (ALG)

TH welcomed the new BTC representative, Bernard Brown, to the SAA committee.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Keith Harmer.
2. **Agree the Minutes of the last Meeting:** Minutes were agreed.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. Item 7: AG advised that the protocol was now in place.
 - b. Item 8: JP advised that barbed wire could not be put up over the gate but could be located around the individual allotment plot. Also the leak has been resolved.
 - c. Item 8: JP asked about progress on the steps. She was asked to take this up with the Deputy Clerk.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** No expenditure since the last SAA meeting. Bank balance stands at £258.82.
5. **Allotment Reports**

Cherry Gardens: AG

There has been a lot of correspondence (32 emails) regarding vermin problems on Cherry Gardens. The new protocol on keeping hens should help. The chickens are to be moved to an outside plot beside plot 32. There has been no indication that this is being implemented as yet. BB advised that it must be completed by the end of October 2019.

The atmosphere on Cherry Gardens has not been as good as last year. This may not have just been due to issues with vermin but also the hot summer. There are a number of plots vacant and some looking scruffy. BB stated that he thought the plots looked ok at the last inspection.

Netherfield Hill: FB

Three plots received letters from BTC about their condition. They made their views known to FB but were advised that if they looked after them and covered them then they would not receive letters from BTC. One cause was attributed to Optima, who own land there and do not clear weeds allowing seeds to drift across the allotment site. It was considered that a letter from SAA would be appropriate.

Virgins Croft: TH

The plots are looking good and there are new plot holders who are working hard. TH didn't attend the last inspection as there was a timing issue. At the previous inspection, the issue of tree pruning was raised but this does not seem to have progressed. AG will follow up with the office.

Watch Oak: JP and CC

There are lots of vacant plots. Three trees are down over the hedge alongside plot 22. Another tree is still leaning over plots. Brambles are intruding into the footpath alongside Watch Oak. The hedge needs to be reduced in height. This was mentioned at the inspection but nothing done yet. Break-ins over the gate are still occurring and stealing from sheds and plots continues – rotivators, lawn mowers, spot lights, strawberries. BB advised that there will be a new PCO assigned to Battle next month. The chicken house has been removed from plot 12B and the rats are now occupying neighbouring plots looking for food sources – especially plots 12A and 17. No pest control inspection was done at Watch Oak although it was done at Cherry Gardens. BB to be advised in writing on this issue. JP would like to do the Pest Control Course so that she is authorised to buy rat poison for the site. The cost of the course will be borne by SAA. It was noted that the vermin problem will continue as a private house keeps chickens alongside the site. A community shed was to be erected by Dan who is doing work experience with BTC. This has not been started yet although requested a year ago. It was intended to place taster plots next to this shed which would store community tools donated to Watch Oak.

6. **AGM:** The AGM will be at the Almonry at 7.15pm on 24th November 2019. Topics for the Chairman were suggested – trees on Cherry Gardens, skips, thanks to Glenna. New officers will be required as the secretary and treasurer will be stepping down. JP has agreed to for stand Secretary. Future meetings of the SAA committee will be held in the Almonry. JP to arrange dates with the office.
7. **AOB:** AG and the whole committee thanked Glenna Favell for working so hard with us over the years and representing us to BTC so effectively.
8. **Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting to be arranged for 2020.