

Notes of the Annual Plot Holder meeting

30/1/2024 at 6pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

Linda Kasmaty welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced CEO, Allotment officer, Communications Officer, and the Admin Assistant. Health and safety protocols were mentioned.

2. Parish Council Update

Jake Mee, the CEO of South Swindon Parish Council gave a brief history of the parish, Jake accepted that waitlists for allotments are long having 14 allotment sites and approximately 470 people waiting. We are doing our very best to keep this number down to reduce waiting times, we get given the land which we are grateful for, but we do not have any land that is already ours that we can turn into allotments hence the waiting times being longer. Jake went through termination terms, inspection terms, the increased provisions and showed that even with the increased costs we are still paying £10k to keep these up to date. He understands the last year was difficult with the allotment officer being off as she hurt herself and broke her leg, so inspections were not done as frequent, but this is going to be sorted and maintenance which was on par will be done more frequently as the allotment officer will have access to a van so general maintenance can be done efficiently.

3. Westcott Forest Garden

Neil Pullen-Westcott Forest Garden mentioned all plans for Westcott, including but not limited too; 16 Acres of new trees, 7 layers of forest garden, Bee hives, tree nursey, small community plots. Funding from places like “The Company” and “Starbucks”. It is a 5-year plan, in the works.

4. Community Gardening

Linda Kasmaty mentioned “Grow south Swindon community group” and “Blooming Smiles” a lot of new raised beds in community areas, community compost bins, and a few sites around Old Town where community gardens are thriving and to stop fly tipping – making Swindon ready for the In Bloom.

5. Site Reps Nomination

Bisley Close – Darrel Heath
Broome Manor
Broome Manor Ext – Caroline Bristow
Burghley – Patsy Malone
Cranmore Ave - Adam Green
Dawlish Road – Garry Garside & Chad Croom
Glenwood – Anne Bennett
Greyweathers – Martin Hambidge
Hatton Grove – Patsy Malone
Monkton close – Andy Wood
Parklands – x (does not require one)
Rushey Platt – Derrick Miles
Shrivenham Road – Linda Kasmaty & Mark Cook
Westcott – Dave Thompson

6. Allotment Plot Holders Feedback

- ✚ Shrivenham – Rubbish Dumping?
 - We are in talks with a company to get a grab lorry and if anyone is seen dumping rubbish again, there will be consequences.
- ✚ Site Rep at Westcott – Noticeboards are not fit for purpose; can these be fixed? Also, there is waste that has been dumped on the site for a while now, when is this getting cleared?
 - Yes, every single one is being looked at and will be replaced, if necessary, the waste will be removed by Wiltshire wildlife trust in the near future.
- ✚ Various Sites – Potholes in track needs a professional company to come and do this, not inexperienced people it's a waste of time and money and will be back to the start again after a short while and when will this happen?
 - The track will be repaired by our inhouse maintenance team with plenty of experience in this field, and this will be done when the weather improves – should be around Springtime.
- ✚ Greyweathers Ave – Access in winter to Greyweathers difficult.
 - I was not aware of the issue, and I will inspect it.
- ✚ Various sites – a few plots can become waterlogged over winter what can I do about it?
 - We can discuss this; however, it is environmental so the other option might be looking at changing your plot.
- ✚ Various Sites – Weed killer, can this be used?
 - Yes, weed killer can be used, however we have banned the “glyphosate based chemical weed killer” – we simply ask that you inform your neighbours and keep the weed killer in your plot boundaries.
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Meeting was closed at 19:07