

**MARLOW ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**  
**Meeting on Wednesday 17 January 2018**

1. **Apologies for absence.** Scott Pickard.
2. **Minutes of last meeting** held on Wednesday 25 October 2017 were agreed and no issues needed to be added to the agenda.
3. **The minutes for the AGM** were reviewed and agreed for distribution to the noticeboards. The committee agreed to aim for a shorter account of the AGM next year. Action: SM and DB to update minutes on noticeboards.
4. **The Treasurer reported** 79 members and said that sale of chicken pellets was slow at this early stage of the year. MT highlighted the NSALG payment to be made in March and the insurance payment in June. PC said that it might be possible to secure a better insurance deal through sponsorship by an insurance firm. Action: (i) MT to pass details of insurance to PC for him to explore options. (ii) MT and DB to liaise on signatory arrangements.
5. **Waiting lists, vacant and neglected plots.** PE reported in relation to Foxes Piece 1 vacancy and 3 waiting to pay; in relation to Hanging Hill there are 12 vacancies and 6 on the waiting list. The committee discussed the ongoing problem of people who did not respond to contacts or show up for arranged meetings. Action: SM to give DB posters to put up around town about the waiting list especially at Hanging Hill.
6. **The Town Council Working Group** meeting is on Thursday 25 January. The MTC had proposed items to discuss in relation to (i) alternative methods of payment; (ii) neglected plots; and (iii) rent comparators. The committee proposed that the agenda should include the (iv) budget and plans for work in 2018; (v) establishing the Berwick Road boundary; (vi) Thames Water damage at Hanging Hill; and (vi) the future of the Foxes Piece playground. Action: PE to liaise with MTC on agenda.
7. **Events and events insurance** was discussed by the committee with a view to taking forward ideas from the AGM eg tea/coffee mornings. SM proposed a range of events which included: social evenings to give tenants the opportunity to share experience; and talks on subjects such as cheese-making, growing kiwis and cut flowers (PC), orchids (MT) and dahlias. Barbecues would continue to be held. Action: SM to explore options and report back.
8. **Neglected plots** continue to be an area of concern and the committee discussed how to give support to tenants and the MTC in tackling this problem. Guidance and advice could be improved (eg through letters) and procedures developed (eg to follow up repeat offenders).
9. **Noticeboards** need to be kept up to date and emergency contact numbers displayed on inside and outside gates.
10. **Website** now includes a tribute to the work of Bill Kilner-Smith who has been a tenant for 47 years and contributor to the work of the Association. Action: SP to report at the next meeting about survey taken at AGM.
11. **Judging of allotments in 2018** now needs to be set in train. The committee agreed to recommend that the judges from 2017 are invited by MTC to undertake the work again. Action: PE to speak to MTC.

12. **Marlow Allotment sites history** is being gathered with a view to putting this on the website. FT has some details on Foxes Piece history. Action: PE to put a section in newsletter inviting input from tenants and their families.