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**BHAF COMMITTEE MEETING – 15th February 2017**

**McLaren Room, The Level.**

Allan Brown, Mark Carroll, Jim Mayor, Maureen Winder, Richard Howard, Jane Griffin, Josephina Salamone

**Apologies:**

Hannes their apologies for not being able to make the meeting.

**AGM Posters:**

MC has designed the BHAF AGM poster and had it printed up. He bought copies to the meeting so these could be distributed to Committee Members for their respective sites. MC and RH divided up the remainder which will be put up on the gates of remaining sites.

**Development Fund Requests:**

Two requests were submitted by MW and RH on behalf of Coldean and Racehill.

Coldean requested a compost toilet for the now defunct toilet that previously flushed into the septic tank, which has also fallen into a state of disrepair. Their request also included plumbing work, both to properly seal off the septic camp and ensure the sink in the shed where the compost toilet is to be located is brought up to an acceptable level. The floor would also need to be properly sealed.

The BHAF has a policy of not supporting the funding of toilets on allotment sites, as there is history of them falling into disrepair and BHCC is not willing to fund their subsequent decommissioning. However, in this instance the toilet was originally installed to serve the ‘Limited Mobility’ plots.

These plots are not currently being used and it is hoped that upgrading the toilet facilities, may encourage a take up of these plots.

Concerns were raised about the suitability of the requested toilet and whether the toilet should cater for both solid as well as liquid waste. There were concerns as to whether the toilet could be hygienically maintained and whether a key and lock system should be utilised, so the toilet was not used by all plotholders as obviously this would require a greater frequency of emptying and cleaning etc. Discussion regarding this request is ongoing.

Racehill have requested a shed for both the storage of tools and equipment and providing hub for greater social cohesion and community spirit on site.

A wooden shed had been identified, however some Committee Members felt that a structure of this nature was not secure enough and could be easily vandalised. It was suggested that a flat packed metal container – as purchased by Craven Vale and Whitehawk – would be a better solution.

It was suggested that such a container would not be suitable for holding meetings in. Craven Vale/ Whitehawk propose to extend the use of their container by building an adjoining pergola which will allow them to have community events like seed swaps/ plant sales/ apple pressing etc. A similar structure may also serve Racehill. MW and RH agreed to work with Racehill site reps and look again at their proposal and see if a better solution can be arrived at.

MC hoped that Racehill would form a simple association, which would oversee the use of the ‘hub’ and drive forward the community cohesion on site.

**Allotment Strategy Implementation Issues:**

The Committee discussed our concerns about the lack of tangible progress being made at Strategy Meetings. We feel the council is simply not working in partnership with us and there are numerous areas of concern.

“Nothing gets resolved at strategy meetings no progress is made between meetings. No minutes are taken and the action plan is not being adhered to. Since Jan Jonker left there has been no clear leadership on implementation. Our email requests to the allotment office regarding the issues below are mostly just ignored.”

**Strategy Objective 4**

Review the admin & ICT systems which support the allotment service

Overall outcome: An efficient service which minimises costs and maximises officer time for liaising with sites.

Introduce voluntary additional payment options including

·         the option to pay a higher rent for those on higher incomes;

·         The option to turn down a concession if this is not needed

**Strategy Objective 7**

Identify sites where the worst problems are for water leakage in order that any maintenance work can be prioritized.

**Objective 8** All associations to make formal links with the Allotment Federation

It was agreed that MW would compile a list of concerns from site reps and that JM would compile a similar list of the Committee’s concerns.

**AOB:**

A quick discussion on practicalities for the AGM and the buying of refreshments etc.

***Meeting finished at 9pm.***