Baildon Horticultural Society
Minutes of the meeting dated 14th April 2025
The Bull's Head

PRESENT: Neal Parry (NP), Robin Weedon (RW), Charlotte Martin (CM), Louise Mallinson (LM), Sharon Burrows (SB), Dale Holgate (DH), Mike Webster (MW) and Claire Bray (CB).

1. Apologies for absence:
Richard Nottidge (RN).

2. Chairs opening remarks:
NP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Actions from previous meetings:

I. **2025 RHS Trip (CB)**
33 people going on the trip. 8 left to pay. SB has paid the coach company invoice.
Action: CB to get back in touch with people still to pay and finalise details with Bridgewater.

II. **Site shops profit/loss (NP)**
NP informed the committee that he had conducted a review of prices charged at the shops and although there will be some changes to prices it was clear that these would not account for losses made at the shops in recent years (£961.00 last year and over £1200.00 the year before).

It was therefore necessary to conduct a full audit on how the shops have operated. Numerous issues were discovered and it is important to note that these issues do not reflect in any way the actions of the volunteers who have worked hard to make the shop a success and have conducted themselves with the utmost integrity.

NP pointed out to the committee the issues that had been discovered and it was agreed that rather than turn the review into a tool to apportion blame we would move forward with a number of safeguards to prevent this happening in the future and hopefully move towards profitability.

The committee agreed that the following protocols would be implemented with immediate effect.

- Animal feed will no longer be sold at either site and smallholders should make their own arrangements for the purchase of these goods.

- BACS payments will no longer be accepted for goods purchased. Both shops will operate on a cash only basis. BACS payments will still be accepted for

rent, memberships payments and any society organised trips.

- No cash will be removed from the shops to pay for items needed at the sites to ensure that cash paid into the society bank account will match sales made. Any costs incurred at the sites for maintenance etc will be paid by the society treasurer on production of receipts.

- Separate paperwork will be completed to give a clearer picture of sales made, purchases of stock and BACS payments received as outlined above.

- Any refunds made for key and bond returns or rent will be paid by bank transfer only.

- Future stocktake figures will be worked out on a cost basis with no profit margin added.

NP expressed gratitude to Elisabete who for a number of years has coordinated stock orders and deliveries for the shop at Charlestown. She has decided to step away from this role as she was recently placed in the regrettable position where a delivery was made to the site and despite requests made for volunteers to assist nobody attended on the day. Fortunately a few members at the site came to her aid and thanks to their assistance the delivery took place.

III. Member issue from last meeting: Complaint regarding almost removal of hedgerow at Charlestown (NP)

NP to email members with instruction to a) Discuss any such future actions with neighbouring plot holders and also b) Obtain authorisation from the committee/allotment officer before any works are completed.
CM emailed members, no further action required.

IV. Reserve fund (ALL)

Is there any work at either site that needs doing. Suggestions so far:
TL front fence.
Signage at front of TL site**.**
Action: BTC are visiting TL site to look at the fence 29/4**.** Keep this item on future agendas.

V. Consider management agreement update (ALL)

8.11 The Society will maintain in good order all internal fences, walls and ditches, but may trim trees to ease access to the site and may trim hedges which overhang the site.
8.12 The external boundaries are not the responsibility of the Society, nor are any claims arising from these boundaries. These will be inspected, assessed and maintained by the Council.
Action: Discuss at next meeting.

VI. **Red telephone boxes (RW)**
RW has repaired the door on one of the boxes and purchased seeds. Payment received from BTC.
Action: 2025/26 budget for upkeep to be checked.

VII. **Tree nursery at Thompson Lane (RN)**
Tidying up and maintenance in progress. Budget allocation TBC.
Action: Keep on agenda for next meeting.

VIII. **CCTV (MW/RN)**
Action: New drive for TL site. Approx £40.

4. Member's issues:
None.

5. Reports:
Allotment officers:
Charlestown: 1 on the waiting list.
Thompson Lane: 2 on the waiting list.
Report of children throwing glass over the back boundary fence into the site. A plot holder on site at the time had a word with them, received verbal abuse.

Treasurer:
SB shared monthly report.
Water bill due in April. Check the bill against the water meter readings.
Action: MW/NP/DH to help with water meter readings?

Secretary:
Nothing to report.

Health and Safety:
Nothing to report.

Show 2025:
RW is working on the schedule with DT.
Update from DT:
Classes have been updated and some added.
Judges are booked.
Guest of honour for prize presentation TBC – any suggestions let DT/RW know.
NP has been asked to do a speech at the show.

Membership Secretary:
Nothing to report.

6. Any other business:

I. **Thank you Elisabete (All)**
As mentioned earlier in the minutes…
NP expressed gratitude to Elisabete who for a number of years has coordinated stock orders and deliveries for the shop at Charlestown. She has decided to step away from this role as she was recently placed in the regrettable position where a delivery was made to the site and despite requests made for volunteers to assist nobody attended on the day. Fortunately a few members at the site came to her aid and thanks to their assistance the delivery took place.

Date of the next meeting is 7pm Monday 12th May at The Bull's Head, Baildon.