

North Bovey Allotments Association



Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 26 February 2026

Time: 18:30

Location: North Bovey Village Hall

Present

Committee:

- Debbie Measures, Chair / Treasurer
- Jean Grist, PCC rep / Treasurer
- Wayne Bevan, Secretary
- Mary Blower, Safeguarding Lead
- Caroline Webster
- Jennifer Jones

Attendees:

- Dai Jenkins
- Debbie Jenkins

1. Funding and Finance

Community Lottery Fund

Debbie Measures is currently preparing an application to the Community Lottery Fund.

- Available funding range: £3,000–£30,000
- Current draft request: approximately £7,000
- Fencing may be included in the application
- Decision timeframe: approximately 16 weeks from submission
- If successful, funds would likely be received May/June or later

The application represents a significant opportunity to improve infrastructure and communal resources.

Parish Council Grant

- £450 awarded
- Payment delayed due to payment methods
- Debbie to follow up

Additional Funding

- Fair Committee may provide a contribution
 - To be confirmed
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2. Plot Plan and Website

Thanks were recorded to Wayne for:

- Producing the updated allotment plot plan
- Progressing development of the allotment website

Plot sizes are varied and irregular. It was agreed that plots will be categorised pragmatically rather than formally measured.

3. Plot Pricing Structure (Proposed)

The following fee structure was discussed and broadly supported:

- **£40** — Large plots
- **£30** — Medium plots
- **£25** — Small plots

Rationale:

North Bovey allotments operate partly as a community garden with:

- Shared water resources
- Centralised facilities
- Proposed communal shed
- Committee-led improvements

Pricing aligns with comparable allotments while reflecting added shared value.

4. Open Day and Recruitment

An Open Day was agreed to generate interest and allocate plots.

Date: 21 March

Time: 14:00–16:00

(Weather contingency: move to Sunday if necessary)

Communication Plan

- Invitation to be sent to the North Bovey WhatsApp group
- At least 2–3 weeks notice preferred

- Reminder message to be sent closer to the date

Cake was humorously suggested as an incentive.

Allocation Process

It was agreed:

- Preferences for plot size and location will be gathered at the Open Day
- Allocation decisions will be made after the event
- If multiple applicants request the same plot, allocation may be determined by draw
- A first-come-first-served rush will be avoided

Renewals

- Annual rent due date: **26 March**
 - Existing plot holders must confirm renewal before allocation decisions are finalised
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5. Community Plot Model

Strong support for a flexible community approach.

For residents unable to commit to a full plot:

- Shared/community plots may be offered
- Contribution-based involvement encouraged

Unused plots may temporarily be planted with:

- Potatoes (soil improvement and shared harvest)
- Green manure crops
- Pumpkins or other spreading crops

The aim is to prevent neglect and maintain visual and soil vitality.

6. Site Layout and Infrastructure

Potential Additional Plot

An area near plot M may be suitable for development into a plot but would require:

- Bramble clearance
- Digging or rotavation

Compost Areas

- Existing compost and manure bays identified
- Preference to reinstate composting capacity
- Four pallets currently available
- Additional pallets may be required
- Volunteer work session to be scheduled

Sheds

- Strong preference to leave existing sheds in place
- Clarification required regarding ownership and responsibility
- Proposal to:
 - Use older sheds for storage of infrequently used materials
 - Install new communal shed for tools and shared equipment
- New shed location to prioritise shaded areas to preserve prime growing space

Gate

- Gate latch requires minor repair to ensure it can be secured

7. Wildlife and Wildflower Areas

Discussion reflected differing perspectives.

Points raised:

- Risk of seed spread from wildflowers into vegetable plots
- Existing strong wildlife habitat due to national park setting
- Potential for wildlife or meadow-style area if strategically led

It was agreed to maintain flexibility at this early stage rather than designate specific wildlife corridors immediately.

8. Insurance and Liability

Understanding shared that:

- Church public liability insurance likely covers normal domestic gardening activity
- Specialist tools requiring licensing (e.g. chainsaws) would not be covered

Formal clarification to be sought to confirm coverage boundaries.

9. Guidelines and Conduct

A light-touch approach was preferred over rigid rules.

Initial principles discussed:

- Controlled approach to fires (possibly limited to organised annual clearing)
- Avoid leaving plastic onsite
- Remove all waste when vacating plots
- Careful approach to chemical use
- Dogs under control

- Respectful shared use of space

It was agreed that guidelines will evolve organically as the project develops.

10. Learning from Other Community Projects

Interest expressed in visiting established community gardens, including:

- Moretonhampstead
- Okehampton
- Chagford

Objectives:

- Learn about funding approaches
- Understand governance models
- Gain practical inspiration

Visits can be arranged if there is sufficient interest.

Actions

Funding

- Finalise Community Lottery Fund application (including fencing decision).
- Follow up Parish Council regarding £450 cheque/BACS.
- Confirm Fair Committee contribution.

Open Day

- Draft and circulate invitation to WhatsApp group.
- Send reminder closer to 21 March.
- Prepare allocation preference process.

Renewals

- Confirm which existing plot holders are renewing before 26 March.
- Clarify status of John's plot and September Cottage plot.

Infrastructure

- Decide new shed location.
- Clarify ownership/responsibility of existing sheds.
- Schedule compost area work session.
- Source additional pallets if required.
- Repair gate latch.

Insurance

- Confirm church insurance coverage for allotment activities.
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Meeting closed: approximately 19:30