

ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

MEETING 13TH January 2023

Present: S Simmonds, L Dartnell, C Davison, A Davison, C Cheeseman, S Cheeseman, C Robertson, G Ashurst, K Fisher, M Watts, G Nicholson, A Klecha, S Klecha, K Walsh, S Walsh (15 total)

Apologies: S Carter, J Priest

Minutes from 11th November 22: one addition Mandy Runeckles third place above ground for her green peppers

Matters Arising:

- a) Thurrock Council Site Lease update – Lease signed by Chair, Secretary and witnessed. Scanned to TC for their management to countersign, expected to be returned next few weeks. TC have allowed both RR and BM on one lease – good news for us as although annual lease cost will rise, in effect cheaper as paying one fee rather than two as in recent lease.
- b) Rosedale Road Residents' Donation – thanks to JP for writing thank you letter
- c) Grow Organic order update – CR will place order
- d) Christmas Social Quiz – winning team of Clive R, Cherry D, Adrian D and Sue K – photo on noticeboards

Rosedale Road Report:

Overall the site is quiet and wet.

Cold snap caused a water leak, quickly discovered and repaired. CR checked meter not damaged, 12 units of water used over last 2 months, so leak was not too costly.

Scalpings delivery expected – to be used on repositioned driveway – date tbc.

Wood chippings - at Boscombe Rd entrance.

Manure - a few barrowloads left.

8ft by 4ft timber sheets will be used for the shed build at BM. Please do not take for personal plot use. There is a sign on the sheets to that effect.

Working group to meet 10.00am on Sunday 12th February – general tidy up – tbc.

Bull Meadow Report:

Overall site is quiet and wet.

Willow trees are getting low at the entrance, look like they are going down. AK has informed Thurrock Council. AK will be clearing the tree against the telegraph pole.

AK has cleared and levelled area for shared base. John due to start build soon; 8' x 4' sheets, currently at RR, will be used.

Working group to meet 10.00am on Sunday 12th February – general tidy up – tbc.

Treasurer's Report:

JP submitted her report via email

Balance is £4713.04. Insurance premium has been paid.

Seed orders have been distributed. AK thanked JP for her work on the seed ordering and distribution.

A.O.B.

Thurrock Allotment Steering Group – CR reported that 30 people attended most recent meeting. 15 to 20 sites have signed the new Thurrock Council 7 year lease; one site Pym Place has asked for a 10 year lease.

NALSG – Essex regional meeting is 10.30am on Saturday 28th January in Witham. If anyone would like to attend please speak to Sheila C or Andy K for details.

One ex-plotholder still hasn't returned keys it was agreed that the plot should be re-let. One other plot has recently come available – this also will be re-let.

Plotholders wanting to donate rooted Christmas trees or other plants should please speak to Alan or Clive to be sure there is space in the garden at Boscombe Road end.

Keep Clear road signage at entrance to RR ramp entrance AK has been informed by Thurrock Council that this message is advisory only and is not enforceable. There is occasional difficulty passing vehicle(s) that are parked on the edge; this can cause problems for deliveries and access for emergency vehicles.

Forward planning – August Open Day (date tbc) CR suggested that the awning set up last year gave some much needed shade and that a similar arrangement would be good to prepare for this year's open day. Planned shade will be able to set up and take down for future use and will not encroach on parking area. Metposts (from the Briggs family) and wooden uprights are ready for use, just need to purchase a stronger tarpaulin awning estimate price £45. Meeting agreed suggestion and purchase. CR to proceed.

Veg Talk – Shallots can be planted outside now. Broad beans can be sown into pots and then into a cold frame or greenhouse. Parsnips directly outside middle February but keep weed-free as take a long time to germinate (6-8 weeks); can be sown into a tray and transplanted before the taproot hits the bottom of the seedtray. Potatoes traditionally the planting day was Good Friday; not necessary to chit before planting but for best range of choice buy early and chit; for good size potatoes leave 2 or 3 chits, for smaller size potatoes leave 6 chits; as a general rule the fewer chits the larger the potatoes. Don't plant tender plants out until beginning of June.

Chadwell Shop – opens on Sunday 22nd January. Opening times are Sunday 9.30am to 12 noon and Wednesday 12 noon to 2.00pm; £1 membership fee. Good range of seed potatoes, onion sets, shallots, Kings seeds, fish blood and bone, compost – all cheaper than garden centres.

Raffle tonight raised £15, thank you to Sheila and Clive.

Next Meeting –

Friday 10th February 2023 at 7.30pm Tyrells Hall WM Club