

ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

MEETING 10th February 2023

Present: S Simmonds, C Davison, A Davison, C Cheeseman, S Cheeseman, C Robertson, G Nicholson, A Klecha, S Klecha, K Walsh, S Walsh, T Whiberley, L Brede, M Barnes, D Smith, J Bishop, B Alabaster, J Alabaster, A Collins, J Priest (20 total)

Apologies: S Carter, C Collins, L Dartnell, G Ashurst, K Fisher

Minutes from 13th January 23: agreed

Matters Arising:

- a) Thurrock Council Site Lease update – still waiting on TC to return signed lease; AK on the case
- b) Grow Organic order update – CR reported delay in ordering as shed had rats that needed to be cleared beforehand. That job has been done, now checking to make sure rats not getting into shed. Six bags left from 2022 at £6.50 each

Rosedale Road Report:

Wood chippings are on site.

Manure – delivery expected Thursday.

Scalpings – delivery expected March, best laid when risk of hard frost passed.

Push tap still playing up, will be looked at.

Plot number stakes renewal – AC and CR will be working on this in the coming week.

Beehive – TW asked if a beehive could be kept at RR, meeting discussed and agreed no suitable place on site to position a hive safely.

Working group now on Saturday 18th Feb at 10.00 am.

Bull Meadow Report:

Wood chippings delivery expected next week.

Manure delivery expected in next couple of weeks.

Willow trees cleared – thank you to AK.

Jon Wakley has made a good start on the shed build.

Lawn mower will be serviced Thursday; AK taking to Basildon Mower Centre.

Working group meeting on Sunday 12th February at 10.30am; AC has got brushcutter ready for AK to clear brambles at entrance

Treasurer's Report:

Balance is £4812.75

JP continues to have problems with Barclays Bank, who insist we have a Business account, but we would be best suited to a Community Group account. Need to find out what options are available elsewhere – CR will ask at Thurrock Steering Group, DS will check if Nat West still have Community Group accounts.

Potatoes have arrived, JP will distribute

Membership Secretary's Report:

Two new members – AK welcomed them to RRBMAA

Seven on waiting list, no vacant plots

Any Other Business:

Thurrock Allotment Steering Group – next meeting April 23

NALSG – AK to circulate latest digital version of magazine. New specialist insurance policy being offered linking home insurance with allotment insurance – may be worth considering if you keep tools on site.

Social - AC suggested RRBMAA hold a Coronation BBQ; meeting agreed a date of Sunday 7th May. Please let Sharon Walsh know if interested. For further discussion at future meetings

Plot inspections will be held in June 2023, all plots should be under cultivation by then, if not a warning letter will be issued.

CC reported that cannabis plants were found on the old nursery site at Rosedale Road allotments – reported to police and plants removed.

Raffle tonight raised £18, thank you to Sheila and Clive Cheeseman

Chadwell Shop – Sunday 9.30am to 12 noon and Wednesday 12 noon to 2.00pm; £1 membership fee. Good range of seed potatoes, Kings seeds, compost – all cheaper than garden centres.

Veg Talk – Celery and celeriac can be started in greenhouses. Reminder - don't plant tender plants out until beginning of June.

Comfrey can be harvested and used for plant food – put into barrel, after 6 weeks can tap off the liquid, dilute that with water, as would with Tomorite. Do not mix comfrey with water when put into barrel, it will smell awful very quickly. Do not use once comfrey has started to flower. Alternatively can use nettles in same way. Both comfrey and nettles are very high in potassium. Good alternative to Tomorite, which itself is an excellent all-round fruit-bearing plant food. Remember to dilute. Horseradish – the deeper you dig, the hotter the root. If growing on plot, or at home, use a deep container as invasive growth. Grate into jars, but make sure you do it outside, or in very well-ventilated area – noxious fumes!

Next Meeting: Friday 10th March 2023 at 7.30pm Tyrells Hall WM Club