

ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

MEETING 10th March 2023

Present: S Simmonds, A Davison, C Cheeseman, S Cheeseman, C Robertson, A Klecha, , K Walsh, S Walsh, M Barnes, D Smith, M Runeckles, P Jay (12 total)

Apologies: S Carter, S Klecha, L Dartnell, A Collins, C Collins, B Alabaster, J Alabaster, J Priest, C Davison

Minutes from 10th February 23: page 2 amendment cannabis plants found near Bull Meadow minutes amended; otherwise agreed

Matters Arising:

- a) Thurrock Council Site Lease update – AK has had to sign and get witnessed a new version on lease as change in TC senior staff
- b) Grow Organic order update – all delivered, CR thanked those who helped. £6.50 each – please ask CR or AC – cash preferred

Rosedale Road Report:

AC provided report to CR to share at meeting.

Thanks to those who came along to the working party, all enjoyed a bacon butty provided by TW.

90% of the plot numbers have now been replaced – clearer and more consistent.

AC & CR have trimmed the Pyracantha at Boscombe Road entrance.

All rubbish has now been cleared and burnt; **no more rubbish** to be left as tidy for summer activities.

Bonfires on your plots should be kept to a minimum number and size. Respect our neighbours and only burn dry items after 6pm.

Manure – waiting to hear from supplier, next load will be placed at Boscombe Road end. AK will pass contact number to CR so delivery can be arranged.

Bull Meadow Report:

Thanks to those who came along to the working party – brambles around site have been cleared and tidied. Hedge needs trimming will need to purchase hedge trimmer soon; estimated cost £150 - £300 for a 2-stroke or cordless battery hedge trimmer. AK will ask at Basildon Mower Centre and buy if good bargain found.

Shed build is progressing well, grille and padlock needed to make secure, nearly ready for use. Thanks to JW.

Manure delivered and paid for out of scaffold board money. Wood chippings – still waiting delivery.

Lawn mower needs new carburettor - cost £164; will be stored in shed going forward.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance is £4579.10; petty cash £196.

Question raised regarding how much petty cash held overall as unclear who held how much and for what. No suggestion anything underhand was occurring more a clarification of funds available to

RRBMAA. Suggested that those who hold such amounts can let JP know so she can give an accurate report at next meeting.

DS has checked with Nat West they do offer an online bank account for community groups such as ours. This can be set up in 5 minutes online; cheque and cash payments can be made at any post office. A change of bank could make JP's committee role much more straightforward.

Agreed overall balance is very healthy; aim is RRBMAA to maintain a £3000 safety net balance.

Membership Secretary's Report:

Eight on waiting list, one vacant plot.

Those on waiting list come from across the whole of Thurrock; discussion amongst members present agreed in principle to a zoning system to prioritise those on list to our nearest areas. SC & SW will work together on this policy – this will not be applied retrospectively.

Any Other Business:

Welcome Pack – short discussion on contents as DS confirmed that this had been agreed at the AGM in October 2021. SW will check minutes and progress.

Social/Coronation BBQ Sunday 7th May – SW has had some response. This will be a bring your own food and drink event. For further discussion at next meeting

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

August Open Day – CR will be buying and planting potatoes, spring onions, beetroot, lettuce and french beans on Keith's old plot. This will be harvested for sale at the open day. Donations from plotholders will be very welcome. National Allotment Week 2023 is 7th to 13th August; RRBMAA open day likely to be Sunday 13th August (to be confirmed). There will be the usual leaflet drop on neighbouring roads plus the banner across the Rosedale Road entrance. Made to measure gazebo, CR estimates canvas cover 6m by 4m cost £150 plus timber supports £20 each; meeting agreed such an item will be used many years and worth the investment.

Plotholders have asked for more

- scaffold boards let AK know how many and he will place an order if totals more than 50+ boards
- IBCs CR/AK will check if still available from previous supplier; can be bought online for £50/60

SS has some long pallet boards excess to his needs, let him know if you are interested in using them

Question from plotholders regarding replacement polytunnel covers – Northern Polytunnels was recommended (northernpolytunnels.co.uk)

Question from plotholder regarding neighbouring plotholders care of their plots. All plotholders are reminded that they must keep the shared path clear of weeds, plants and other obstructions. Paths between plots must not be planted on. Plotholders must not enter any other plot unless they have been invited to do so. Items must not be taken from other plots to use on your own plot. This is part of the RRBMAA rules and conditions of each plotholder's membership. Plot inspections in June will check.

Next Meeting: Friday 14th April 2023 at 7.30pm Tyrells Hall WM Club