

# ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

## MEETING 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Present: S Simmonds, A Davison, C Cheeseman, S Cheeseman, C Robertson, A Klecha, , K Walsh, S Walsh, M Barnes, D Smith, A Collins, J Bishop, L Dartnell, M Watts, B Alabaster, J Alabaster, B Childs, G Ashurst, K Fisher, J Priest, M Kennedy (21 total)

Apologies: S Carter, S Klecha, C Davison, C Collins, A Osborn, T Whiberley

Minutes from 10<sup>th</sup> March 23: agreed

### Matters Arising:

- a) Thurrock Council Site Lease update – signed by all parties. Member asked question regarding yearly rents, AK confirmed the rents cover both Rosedale Road and Bull Meadow as one self-managed allotment site. Annual rents for the seven years of lease are Nov 22/23 £35; Nov 23/24 £40; Nov 24/25 £45; Nov 25/26 £50; Nov 26/27 £55; Nov 27/28 £60; Nov 28/29 £65
- b) Scaffold Boards – please let AK know how many you want as soon as possible; IBC – these are still available from previous supplier – please let AK know if you want one

### Rosedale Road Report:

Overall site looks ok, all tidy. One plot vacant.

Manure delivered at both ends of site. Chippings have run out – not sure when next delivery will be made. Scalpings work will be done in May, AC will need help.

Water turn-on delayed as found copper pipes to tanks split (extreme cold weather a few months ago). AC & CR are making the repairs. Sink tap has been repaired. One tap needs repair at Boscombe Road end. Water bill higher than last year for RR; CR suggested misread by water board and will be corrected at next official reading.

Pond at Boscombe Road end – please **DO NOT** add fish to this pond – they do not survive!

### Bull Meadow Report:

Manure delivered but still waiting delivery of wood chippings.

Hedge trimmer purchase yet to be made – no hurry – a new Stihl costs around £289. AK will continue to look out for suitable kit.

Shed build is nearly complete, needs more external cladding, grille and padlock. Thanks to JW.

Water leak at BM – copper pipe leaking (same problem & cause as RR), water remains off until repaired but the troughs are all full.

### Treasurer's Report:

Balance £3983.26 (bank account and petty cash)

Other petty cash of £263 – held by AK (£120 – pays for manure at BM), CR (£15 – Grow Organic sales), and AC (£128 from scrap metal sales – pays for manure and scalpings).

Mower repair bill to be paid.

Water bills paid – BM £29.70 and RR £69.56 (reading taken by water board 05264, CR reading 5244 – should be corrected in October at next water board reading date)

JP reported that Tyrells Hall hadn't had a donation from RRBMAA since she took over as treasurer, approx. 18 months ago, so two donations missed. Meeting agreed a donation of £100 to bring us up to date and then back to £50 annual donation thereafter. JP to process.

Account change being considered to a Community Account with Nat West; although Barclays Bank now seems to have settled and working well. Committee are meeting Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April and this will be discussed further then.

#### Membership Secretary's Report:

Twelve on waiting list, one vacant plot at RR.

SC & SW have started working on zoning system, new application form about to be introduced. Committee meeting topic on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

#### Social:

Coronation BBQ is going ahead (weather permitting as usual). Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 5/6pm start at RR. Bring your own food, drink, family and friends. The BBQ will be ready! Boules rematch men vs women eagerly anticipated! AK will put up posters on sites; SW will email invitation.

Open Day – this will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August. CR growing to sell at event, donations of time and goods welcome nearer the time

#### Any Other Business:

Raffle tonight raised £12, thank you to Sheila and Clive Cheeseman

Plant Swap – AK advised of this event 7.30pm 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Woolmarket in Horndon on the Hill. You can buy if you do not have anything to sell. AK went last year and picked up some good plants.

Seed Swap – a member had suggested a seed swap meet – discussion at meeting agreed that a seed swap box would be set up at RR, same principle as excess seedlings and plants currently at RR. Extra seeds, seedlings, plants left at lean-to area for others to help themselves. AK will feedback to that member and thank them for their suggestion.

TASG – CR attended latest meeting and reported that Thurrock Council will require any new housing developments to include land for allotments as all 25 sites across Thurrock each have 10+ on their waiting lists.

AC asked about the cover given by our Public Liability Insurance for the sites. AK explained does not cover personal injuries or any kit held in individual sheds. Information for personal accidents and shed contents insurance available on our website ([rrbm.co.uk](http://rrbm.co.uk)) – individuals need to decide for themselves if they want to purchase such insurance.

Veg Talk – Potatoes, cabbage, onions all in. It is too late to move rhubarb as now cropping. You can use straw and manure to make ridges for potatoes; helps keep in moisture, useful if another dry year. Try old seeds on damp tissue to check if still germinate. Parsnip take 2+wks to germinate, old seed (1yr+) will not. Intersperse radish seed with parsnip; radish seed germinates quickly and will mark the line.

Next Meeting: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm Tyrells Hall WM Club