

ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

MEETING 9th June 2023

Present: S Simmonds, A Davison, C Davison, C Cheeseman, S Cheeseman, C Robertson, A Klecha, , K Walsh, S Walsh, M Barnes, D Smith, A Collins, C Collins, J Bishop, B Childs, A Osborn, B Alabaster, J Alabaster, J Stephens, K Stephens, S Carter, L Brede (22 total)

Apologies: L Dartnell, S Klecha, T Whiberley, J Priest

Minutes from 12th May 23: minor amendments - date of minutes incorrect, and apologies had been given by S Walsh and K Walsh.

Matters Arising:

- a) Scaffold Boards – AK arranging delivery will notify when expected
- b) Plot Inspections – were carried out on 8th June, generally good, but there will be some letters sent out to relevant plot-holders

Rosedale Road Report (AC):

Scrap taken Tuesday – made £118.80; this will be kept in RR “cash pot” to pay for manure etc. Please DO NOT leave plastic, or plastic coated metal – these items cannot be scrapped!

SS and AC have repaired a trough that was overflowing.

Scalpings work expected to be done in next two weeks, will be used to smooth out the bottom of the entrance ramp, AC will need help. The scalpings will be paid for from scrap funds.

SS, AC and CR have trimmed the trees at Boscombe Road end of site. The trimmings/wood will be used for November bonfire.

CR has been monitoring water usage at RR; in the 24 hours prior to meeting 5 units of water had been used, this is much higher than usual amount used – believe due to extra watering as very dry over the site and a watering can will hold 1.5 gallons. AC and CR are sure it is not water being lost through leaks. CR will continue to monitor.

AO witnessed gardeners working at Sheltered Housing Complex in Medina Road dump garden waste over fence into allotment. SW will write to complex advising them of problem and asking them to tell their contractors to stop.

Bull Meadow Report (AK):

Manure delivered still some left. Need wood chippings but unclear when delivery can be expected.

Shed build is complete, except for some cladding at rear – all secure. AK to check with JP if insurance covers BM, and BM shed, as well as RR. Discussion regarding security marking BM shed contents, Grays Police should have SelectDNA kits available for our use; AK to action.

Treasurer's Report:

JP sent apologies to the meeting and her update via email.

Balance £3664.87 (£3583.09 bank account and £81.78 petty cash)

Water bills have been cashed.

Two questions from the meeting for JP –

1. Does the balance take into account the value of the GroOrganic stock?
2. Which set of waterbill cheques were cashed? The originals that had gone missing, or the replacements?

Membership Secretary's Report (SC):

No vacant plots. Twelve on waiting list, three are in zone 1 (our priority/local area), five in zone 2, and four in zone 3.

Social:

Open Day – this will be on Saturday 12th August. CR growing to sell at event, donations of time and goods such as cakes, produce, chutneys, jams etc. welcome nearer the time – an email inviting contributions will be sent nearer the time. AK will source posters, TW & JP preparing leaflets, CR preparing gazebo and growing produce for sale.

JS thanked all who have helped him settle into his plot and allotment life – he attended the Open Day in August 2022 and got onto his plot in October.

Any Other Business:

Raffle tonight raised £20.50, thank you to Sheila and Clive Cheeseman

Please be aware – some plotholders have noticed a man, driving a white car, looking over the allotments at RR with binoculars. His intention is unclear and he has not been spoken to. Nor do we have the make, model or reg number of the car. If anyone has any information please share with a committee member or site manager.

CR advised that Basildon Mower Centre has relocated to Harvey Road, can be difficult to find. AK has a map of the new location that he will share.

DS asked if new noticeboards needed at both sites – meeting discussion agreed some required a refurb/refresh. AK and AC have some materials that should be useful.

Veg Talk –

Comfrey liquid – be careful of strength used, needs to be diluted similarly to Tomorite. One part comfrey to 10 parts water (BBC Gardener World magazine)

Coddling Moth pheromone traps – now is the time to use these to reduce damage to apple crops. 60 – 80% effective, use one trap now and then replace in 5 weeks. A similar product is available for plum trees. Can be bought as refills, or full kits with tent holder, from garden centres, online and Chadwell Allotment shed.

SC asked if there are rabbits at RR – there are not. RR does have a fox and hedgehogs, plus other wildlife such as slow worms and grass snakes – none of which are dangerous to humans and all are beneficial to allotments – they must not be harmed in any way.

BC asked how tall Jerusalem Artichokes grow – approximately 7 feet tall.

Next Meeting: No meetings in July and August. Our next meeting will be Friday 8th September 2023 at 7.30pm Tyrells Hall WM Club