

# ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

## MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

1. Present: S Simmonds, A Davison, C Robertson, A Klecha (Chair), S Walsh (Secretary), A Collins, J Bishop, B Childs, A Osborn, B Alabaster, J Alabaster, T Whiberley, L Brede, L Dartnell, J Fielder, G Ashurst, K Fisher, M Watts (18 total)
2. Apologies: S Klecha, C Davison, C Cheeseman, S Cheeseman, K Walsh, D Smith, C Collins, S Carter
3. Minutes from 9<sup>th</sup> June 23: agreed
4. Matters Arising:
  - a) Scaffold Boards – ordered, delivery expected Autumn. Order can be added to, speak to Andy Klecha. 6' and 13' foot boards expected but sizes and numbers cannot be guaranteed.
  - b) Plot Inspections – follow up letters sent to a few plot-holders across both sites. An autumn whole sites inspection will be introduced this year.
5. Rosedale Road Report (Alan Collins):
  - a) Wood chips available and more expected in next two weeks; manure delivery expected this month.
  - b) Scrap metal taken made £89.50; this will be kept in RR "cash pot" to pay for manure etc. Alan C thanked Clive R for his help in sorting and loading etc. A Makita drill and two batteries were left in the barrel in scrap store – unclear if it has been left and forgotten, or "donated" for scrap. If it is yours and you want it back please speak to either Alan or Clive. If it is not claimed it will be checked and if works added to the RRBMAA tools for loan collection. Please DO NOT leave plastic, or plastic coated metal – these items cannot be scrapped!
  - c) Scalpings work expected to be done in September, will be used to smooth out the bottom of the entrance ramp, Alan will need help. The scalpings will be paid for from scrap funds.
  - d) Clive R continues to monitor water usage at RR; estimates next bill to be between £400 & £450, as expected.
  - e) Tina W & Len B reported an amicable discussion between them and a RR neighbour whose house overlooks their plot. Confirmed that the bank between the houses and allotment site is owned by Thurrock Council. LB & TW have covered the bank to stop weed growth but cannot cut down the buddleia growing in the path as that is on land bordering the TC bank and houses.
  - f) Ashley O witnessed gardeners working at Sheltered Housing Complex in Medina Road dump garden waste over fence into allotment. Sharon W has not written to complex yet; agreed that AO will take photo, or note contractors' van details when sees happening again. More evidence will help support the letter.
6. Bull Meadow Report (Les Dartnell):
  - a) Wood chips and manure on site.
  - b) Double gates entering the site are affected by the heat, will settle once cools down. Both gates need to be brought together and then locked.
  - c) A discussion arose around a mirror that was left leaning against the notice board. Concern raised as it could have been damaged by stone-throwing etc. Items should not be left at either of the sites. A matter of tyres left at a gate entrance was raised by a BM plot-holder. AK and LD will investigate, but neither could picture where that could be on BM site.
  - d) The committee has a meeting next week, the matter of rubbish on either site will be reviewed then looking at the tenancy agreement.
7. Treasurer's Report (Jane Fielder):
  - a) Two questions from the June meeting for Jane F –
    - a) Does the balance take into account the value of the GroOrganic stock? *No, but as of 28/08 £190 of sales had been taken, Clive R estimates just over ½ of a pallet remains.*
    - b) Which set of waterbill cheques were cashed? The originals that had gone missing, or the replacements? *Both sets have been checked so now in credit*
  - b) Balance £4555.06 (£4407.83 bank account and £147.23 petty cash)
  - c) Alan C holds the cash raised from selling the scrap metal; current total is £362.72. Approximately half will be used to pay for the scalpings work, once paid Alan C will pass £100 to the Treasurer and keep remainder for manure payment etc.
  - d) August Open Day raised £359.10 profit – well done and thank you all contributed to the success.

- e) 40% of members have paid; payment by AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> October. A £10 late payment fine will be added after that date.
- f) National Allotment Society membership has been renewed at a cost of £189.
- g) Kings Seed Orders must be with Jane Fielder (Treasurer) by end of October. Order books are in the lean-to at RR. Fewer books sent by Kings this year, they are cutting back on printed catalogues. Plot-holders may have to share books, copy blank form, or pool their orders onto one form.

#### 8. Membership Secretary's Report (Sheila Cheeseman):

Sheila C sent apologies as on holiday.

#### 9. Social:

- a) August Open Day – all hailed this a huge success and a thoroughly enjoyable time. Andy K thanked **all** contributors. Alan C mentioned the great veg that Clive R grew on Keith's plot for the event; Clive R estimates a £15 outlay – with very good returns. All cakes were delicious and sold out. Runner bean chutney contributed for tasting was accidentally sold; heads were bumped on the "gazebo"; and a hand accidentally landed in a Lemon Drizzle Cake! Open day 2023 raised £359.10; 2022 raised £256.31!
- b) November Bonfire and BBQ – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 5 pm at RR site
- c) Christmas Quiz or Christmas Indoor Bowls? Alan C proposed indoor bowls, he can source the kit and will talk to Tyrells Hall to see if they would be okay with that plan.
- d) General discussion about other social activities such as coach trips. We have had several successful outings to Brogdale, Canterbury and Deal pre-Covid; all arranged by Chris C. Tina W volunteered to organise similar events; committee to discuss offer at their pre-AGM meeting on 12/09

#### 10. Any Other Business:

- a) Sharron C (asked via email)  
when water will be turned off? – this will be the last day of October  
how to get her IBC tank filled? – speak to Clive R or Alan C, at a cost of £2.50; a water harvesting system would be the preferred way forward for **all** plot-holders.
- b) Clive R reported Thurrock Steering Group had given him security leaflets and marker pens. These will be kept in the RR leanto/shed please use and return for others.
- c) Clive R raised the question of reinstating the postcodes for RR and BM sites so emergency vehicles can find if needed. General discussion around using What3Words as more accurate info; SW will action and prepare site specific emergency information posters. Defibrillators were also discussed – meeting agreed more information needed before that can be progressed. There is a First Aid Kit held in the RR shed.
- d) Nightshade – you may have on your plot, it does grow naturally. Not all varieties are dangerous – Andy K has circulated, via email, a useful identification sheet. If you have it, remove and compost.
- e) Ashley O warned that squirrels were eating his sweetcorn. Bob C suggested covering with old socks; Andy K said crop and freeze excess crop, they will be as tasty as freshly picked.

#### 11. Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be the AGM on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm Tyrells Hall WM Club.

If you have any items for the agenda please submit them to Sharon Walsh by 29<sup>th</sup> September. Only items on the agenda will be discussed, there will not be Any Other Business.

#### **AGM Competition 2023 – three categories**

- 1) Best vegetable grown above ground (up to three of same kind)
- 2) Best vegetable grown underground (up to three of same kind)

**Everyone who attends AGM will vote for their favourite in each category.**