

ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

MEETING 12th January 2024

1. Present: A Klecha (Chair), S Walsh (Secretary), J Fielder (Treasurer), S Cheeseman (Membership Secretary), C Cheeseman (Committee), D Smith (Committee), Mick Brand, K Walsh, S Simmonds, A Davison, C Davison, C Robertson, A Osborn, J Bishop (14 total)
2. Apologies: J Alabaster, B Alabaster, S Klecha, A Collins, L Dartnell, (5 total)
3. Minutes from 10th November 23: agreed
4. Matters Arising:
 - a) Refreshing Remembrance Garden – carried from AGM & November meeting; member raising topic was not in attendance agreed SW will contact and ask if want to address at February meeting.
 - b) Smith's Garden Centre discount cards – SW has had a recent reply to her letter sent in December, meeting agreed to ask for 50, that would allow the new members to have a card and some spares for ongoing changes. Ideally leaving members should hand in the discount cards with their allotment keys.
5. Rosedale Road Report (Clive Robertson):
 - a) Manure nearly gone, CR to order another load. Currently costs £25 a load, expected to rise to £30 this year.
 - b) Water turned off, tap in handwashing sink broken.
 - c) CR gave latest water meter reading 5506
 - d) The work area south end of site has been used for a few weed/bramble/prunings fires
 - e) Latest scrap metal run raised another £70 for the Scalpings costs. Thanks to A Collins. No date yet for the scalpings work to be done.
 - f) Scaffold boards – around 15 left. Please remember to pay CR for those boards that have been taken, thank you to those who have paid.
 - g) Recent storm had felled a “no-mans land” tree onto the sheds of AD & SC; AK has cleared, cut into logs and stacked them at the Boscombe Avenue end. Please leave them there as they are being seasoned for BBQ fuel for social events.
 - h) Working party planned for 17th or 18th February – focus will be on clearing the Boscombe Avenue garden.
6. Bull Meadow Report (Andy Klecha):
 - a) Looks fine, no water leaks, no obvious damage after recent storm.
 - b) AK has used chainsaw to clear overgrowth and to coppice some hazel.
 - c) CR asked if hedge trimmer available for anyone to use. General discussion across meeting about what tools are available for all to use – some confusion about what is safe for anyone to use, what needs an induction, booking process, health & safety implications, what does our insurance cover etc – SW agreed to do some research across other allotment associations and NSALG
 - d) Working party to be arranged for either 10th/11th February or the following weekend.
7. Treasurer's Report (Jane Fielder):
 - a) Bank balance £4502.68, confirmed to the penny by recent bank statement; petty cash £143.71. Total £4646.39
 - b) Insurance (through Chris Knott) has been paid – successfully online, rather than by cheque. Endorsement section requiring a pond to be safely secured behind a fence with gated access was discussed by the meeting. Signs to be placed around the fish pond reminding members who bring children on-site that they **MUST** supervise them at all times.
 - c) King's seed order has been distributed, a few items still to arrive, including potatoes expected end of January
 - d) Tyrell's Hall annual donation of £50 for meeting room use in 2024 was agreed by the meeting, JF to process.

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

- a) 17 on waiting list, waiting for go ahead on three half-plots readiness to be showed to people at top of zone 1 section of list. One on BM, two on RR. Agreed if a plot accepted but bad weather slows down new plot-holders progress that would be taken into account at the initial six weeks review, with possible extension if needed.

9. Social:

- a) November Bonfire and BBQ on Saturday 11th November at 5 pm at RR site was a success. Thank you to all who supplied wood and pre-built the fire, many of who could not attend that event.
- b) Christmas Quiz Social was good fun. Three teams were quizzed by Quizmaster Andy – Bewildered of Bull Meadow (Les, Shirley, Sarah and Mick) scored 32.5; Old Codgers (Sheila, Clive, Mandy and Paul) scored 48.5; Grays Grazers (Adrian, Cherry, Jane and Sharon) scored 52. Jam doughnuts for losers, garden centre vouchers for the winners! Thank you to all who came, brought questions and enjoyed the evening.
- c) Summer social – probably June or July, a BBQ, bowls or bring a dish made from allotment ingredients
- d) August Open Day – CR will use Keith's plot again to grow extra produce, date to be confirmed but usually linked to NSALG National Allotment Week which will take place from Monday 12th to Sunday 18th August 2024. Based on previous years, the most likely date will be 17th August.

10. Any Other Business:

- a) Raffle raised £12 – thanks to Sheila and Clive for organising
- b) DS asked if he could get help clearing a large sycamore tree; AK agreed to help if possible (i.e. no climbing with chainsaw involved)
- c) **Veg Talk** – CR raised the issue of the increased rainfall leaching out nutrients from soil. Some options for plotholders include – grow a green manure, cover with manure, cover with any form of mulch such as cardboard laid down and weighted, leave weeds in and double dig in Spring, or no dig is a an approach that is gathering popularity. It is never too late to mulch even if you start sowing in March. Sweetcorn – can be germinated in the ground, or put 2 seeds in a 3" pot in a cold frame end May, can expect an 80% germination rate; wind pollinated so best grown 18" apart in a block, NOT in rows! Will need feeding with calcified seaweed, tomorite, or comfrey liquid.
- d) The Allotment Shop Chadwell St Mary opens Sunday 21st January 9.30am to 12 noon – they will be stocking 20 varieties of potatoes (earlies, second earlies and maincrop), onion and shallot sets, compost and fertilisers. Subscriptions remain at £1. Opening times will be every Saturday and Sunday, 9.30 am to 12 noon until the end of May, after which it will be Sundays only. Please note the shop **WILL NOT** be open on Wednesdays.

11. Next Meeting: 7.30pm Friday 9th February 2024 at Tyrells Hall Club