

ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

MEETING 9th February 2024

1. Present: A Klecha (Chair), S Walsh (Secretary), S Cheeseman (Membership Secretary), D Smith (Committee), M Brand, K Walsh, S Simmonds, A Davison, C Davison, C Robertson, A Osborn, J Bishop, T Whiberley, L Brede, J Alabaster, B Alabaster, B Saunders, A Butkauskas (18 total)
2. Apologies: C Cheeseman, J Fielder, J Stephens, S Klecha, A Collins, L Dartnell, G Ashurst, S Carter, B Childs (9 total)
3. Minutes from 12th January 24: agreed
4. Matters Arising:
 - a) Refreshing Remembrance Garden – TW briefly outlined her idea regarding refreshing the remembrance garden at Boscombe Avenue end of RR, meeting agreed to make that the focus of the working group for further discussion under item 5
 - b) Smith's Garden Centre discount cards – SW has ordered 50 and is waiting to be told that they are ready for collection
 - c) Tool bank – after initial research the committee have decided to meet, including site managers, to discuss and progress; SW to organise
5. Rosedale Road Report (Clive Robertson):
 - a) Manure arrived Monday, cost £25, next load will cost £30. Wood chippings gone RR end, but still some at BA end. Scrap metal collection is ongoing.
 - b) Water turned off, handwashing sink tap has been repaired and a new case set up surrounding the basin; still off at the moment as has slight leak that SS will repair over the weekend. CR gave latest water meter reading 5506.
 - c) MB asked whether it was possible to have a handwashing tap available all year round at the BA end, the meeting discussed and it was explained that a separate water pipe would have to be laid up the site in order to do so – this was impractical. IBCs at BA end are full and can be used as a quick rinse. Water across whole RR site will be turned on 1st April.
 - d) BS asked for information regarding the Chadwell Allotment Shop, Oxford Avenue – yearly subscription remains at £1. Opening 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. AK advised that the shop will send you a weekly email advising on stock levels if you give them your email address. AK advised that there is a good selection of potatoes too at Smiths Garden Centre, Chadwell Road.
 - e) AB asked if he could set up a greenhouse on his plot – yes as long as it isn't too large, a temporary structure (i.e. easily removed if needed), doesn't interfere with neighbouring plots, and not too near external paths.
 - f) The work area south end of site has been used for a dry bramble/prunings fires; CR has purchased paraffin at £15 to aid starting of bonfires.
 - g) Two tyres repaired for wheelbarrows have been collected, with a third and two inner tubes included from Jay's Tyres, Tilbury.
 - h) The two ponds, RR and BA ends, have been covered with trellis as a safety measure, at no cost as recovered from a skip.
 - i) Plot 4N, known as Keith's old plot, has been cleared ready for planting veggies to be sold at the August Open Day; thank you to Alan Collins, Clive Robertson and Stuart Simmonds.
 - j) Working party confirmed for 17th February 10.00am start – focus will be on clearing the Boscombe Avenue garden, removing tree branches and tidy up the garden end. TW will then consider if she is interested in leading a redesign of the area, which will need regular tidy up. 8 people at the meeting said they would be at the working party, TW has offered bacon rolls as an incentive!

6. Bull Meadow Report (Andy Klecha):

- a) Manure on site, some wood chips.
- b) AK has cleared some of the vacant plot 29A, cut down the large fruit trees, brambles need burning etc before it will be ready for letting.
- c) Water off, no leaks.
- d) Working party to be arranged for Sunday 18th February at 10.00am.

7. Treasurer's Report (Jane Fielder via email):

- a) Bank balance £4462.68, petty cash £66.71; total £4529.39.
- b) Tyrell's Hall annual donation of £50 for meeting room use will be dropped in over the weekend.
- c) AK reported that the peppercorn rent of £40, covers both RR & BM sites, has been successfully paid online.

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

- a) 19 on waiting list. Two vacant plots both on BM – hope to lease soon to make best use of the start of the main growing season.
- b) AD advised meeting that he had recently given contact information regarding joining the waiting list.

9. Social:

- a) Summer social – June or July, probably a BBQ, bowls or bring a dish made from allotment ingredients – date tbc
- b) August Open Day – CR will use (Keith's) plot 4N again to grow extra produce. Date 17th August 24, from 10.00am to 1.00pm, NSALG National Allotment Week which will take place from Monday 12th to Sunday 18th August 2024. Donations of fresh produce, pickles, jams and cakes are very welcome, as will time on the day to set up, serve and tidy up. Thank you all in advance!

10. Any Other Business:

- a) **Raffle** raised £13.50 – thanks to Sheila for organising
- b) **BURNING WET MATERIAL** is not allowed. If you do so you will be asked to put your bonfire out. Burning such material creates a lot of smoke and is extremely anti-social. You **must only** burn dry material, at a time when it is not windy, that will not cause problems with our neighbours washing, and you must stay until the fire has finished.
- c) **Veg Talk** – Broad beans can be sown in propagator or greenhouse, or if very mild straight into the ground but beware that if sown in Feb rather than October they are more likely to be attacked by blackfly and/or eaten by mice.

Potatoes - time to chit, place rose end upwards (egg boxes/trays) and keep in a light cool area. Will be ready when chits are top joint of thumb size, if longer they are not getting enough light and are unlikely to produce a good crop. Plant out March/April. Earlies can be left in the ground until needed.

Parsnips – are on sale as seedlings in Smiths in small pots/trays – not the best way to grow as if the root reaches the bottom it will fork. Can be planted out in February but will need protection, an expensive way to grow. Much cheaper to buy seeds – take 2 to 3 weeks to germinate. Mix parsnip seeds with radish seeds, these germinate very quickly and will act as a reminder where your parsnip seeds have been sown.

Onion sets – planted March, still available at garden centres such as Smiths, the Chadwell Allotment Shop has sold out. Also garlic and shallots. Good varieties are Stuttgart, Centurion or Sturon.

Tidy Up Time get your plot ready for the main growing season. Prune your apple and pear trees. Clean and tidy up your site and enjoy the next few months. Happy growing!

11. Next Meeting: 7.30pm Friday 8th March 2024 at Tyrells Hall Club