

ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

MEETING 13th September 2024

1. Present: A Klecha (Chair), S Walsh (Secretary), S Cheeseman (Membership Secretary), J Fielder (Treasurer), C Cheeseman (Committee), K Walsh, J Bishop, J Alabaster, B Alabaster, A Collins, J Stephens, S Simmonds, M Watts, L Dartnell, A Osborn, B Childs, R Pearce, S Fraser, A Fraser (19 total)
2. Apologies: C Robertson, S Klecha
3. Minutes from 14th June 24: amendment item 5g – replacement hard tyres for wheelbarrows
4. Matters Arising:
 - a) **Plot reinspections** were held on Thursday 12th September across both sites. Overall most plots had made improvements, however 5 plots will receive next stage letters and reinspected in October.
 - b) **Open Day Saturday 17th August feedback** – lovely sunny day, great turnout from locals and our members. Thank you so much for the huge amounts of help both on the day and leading up to the event. A total of £423.85 was taken on the day, with a further £16 from later sales of leftover produce donations at Chadwell Club.
5. Committee Meeting Report

The committee met on 6th August 24, to prepare for the Open Day, the October AGM and to discuss registration of RRBMAA as an express trust. In 2022 HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) rolled out new anti-money laundering legislation. As RRBMAA has a bank account that holds money from its members, we are acting as a trust that must be registered with HMRC. The signatories to the account are effectively trustees as they manage the bank funds on behalf of the plot holders. If we do not register a fine of £5000 could be payable. SW has completed the registration process, however there now needs to be some slight amendments to our constitution. These will be drafted over the next few weeks and presented to the members attending the October AGM for their comment and approval.
6. Rosedale Road Report (Alan Collins AC):
 - a) Site overall pretty good but some plots need attention.
 - b) Manure delivery this month, 10 tonnes expected. Will be at RR entrance end as delivery lorry too large to get through to north car park.
 - c) 4 bags of Gro Organic available – 1 to be kept back as prize for most improved plot
 - d) Scalpings have been laid and bedded down nicely; paid from scrap metal money
 - e) Remaining scrap metal money has been spent on new hard tyres for wheelbarrows, servicing the Honda rotavator, replacement ball cocks and plumbing spare parts for the water system. An additional gazebo for use on socials and open days to be bought.
 - f) Fish pond cover has been hinged for easy and safe access.
 - g) South end of site has been cleared and tidied up by SS; can be used for Bonfire social later in November, brick BBQ can also be relocated to same area of site.
 - h) Sweetcorn and fruit losses are highly likely to be squirrels or rats - a squirrel was recently seen sitting on top of a shed eating a whole cob. JS reported that he had used old socks to cover the individual ears – that has stopped squirrels taking/damaging his crop!
 - i) Another beer barrel has been dumped on the site. IF IT IS YOURS, PLEASE COME AND GET IT! It is illegal to dump beer barrels, we cannot recycle or sell for scrap as that would be a criminal offence. Please DO NOT dump anymore!
7. Bull Meadow Report (Les Dartnell LD & Andy Klecha AK):
 - a) Manure on site, wood chippings getting low. AG & AK have cut the grass paths.
 - b) Vacant plot to be let soon; a “new” half plot has just been released will need clearing before can be let.

- c) Damaged double gates have eased with the wetter weather
- d) LD reported that he had seen 5/6 young lads walking across BM site and leaving through the gates. Meeting discussion led to assumption that they had walked through gates, unknown to LD as working his plot, tried to get through/over fence, then walked back through and off site. AK will double check that corner of site when next there.
- e) AK has taken a donated Stihl strimmer (2 stroke) to be serviced at Basildon Mower Centre will cost £150 but in good condition so worth the expense. He will also purchase steel fuel for the strimmer, this can be left in the machine without damaging the carburettor.
- f) Plums have been reported as stolen but, as above at RR, could have been taken by squirrels or rats. AK reported that his Filbert nut trees have been stripped by squirrels; he only managed to harvest a couple of dozen.

8. Treasurer's Report (Jane Fielder):

- a) Money out - no bills needed to be paid since last meeting in June. NSALG membership renewed on 19th August at a cost of £189. Water bills due in October. New Keep Gates Closed signs bought for RR.
- b) Money in since June meeting - £80 from Gro Organic sales and 36 members (about half) have paid subs
- c) Bank balance is £5286.57, cash-in-hand is £142.49. Total £5429.06 (this excludes cash held by site managers at RR & BM).
- d) Kings Seed Catalogue – orders and cash payment to JF by 31st October please. Jane then pulls it all together and sends to Kings. RRBMAA receives around £60 on average from making this bulk order on behalf of members.

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

- a) 22 on waiting list.
- b) One, newly released, half-plot on BM to be cleared and let. Two half plots on RR to be let
- c) New applicant from Tilbury had our zoning policy explained to him and has been advised to also join a closer plot waiting list.

10. Any Other Business:

- a) **Raffle** raised £11 profit – thanks to Sheila and Clive for organising
- b) **November Bonfire & BBQ Social** – Saturday 2nd November, 5pm start at RR.
- c) **December Christmas Social & Quiz** – Friday 20th December
- d) **Veg Talk** – Whitefly JB reported an infestation of whitefly and asked for help in control and removal. If all plants still growing don't worry as once temperature drops whitefly will disappear. Some will be eaten by ladybird and hoverfly larvae. Hoverfly larvae are transparent so can be left to eat the whitefly; green caterpillars are best removed. Older leaves on sprouts can be removed. Can spray off with water, make an organic spray with garlic and water (see internet for guidance) or buy a chemical spray from Amazon, garden centres etc. Yellow sticky sheets could also work but will trap other insects that may be useful around the plot.

11. Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be the AGM on Friday 13th October 2023 at 7.30pm Tyrells Hall WM Club. If you have any items for the agenda please submit them to Sharon Walsh by Friday 27th September. Only items on the agenda will be discussed, there will not be Any Other Business.

AGM Competition 2024 – three categories. Everyone who attends AGM can vote for their favourite in each category.

- 1) Best vegetable grown above ground (up to three of same kind)
- 2) Best vegetable grown underground (up to three of same kind)
- 3) Best conserve, jam, chutney, relish, pickle made from home-grown or plot-grown produce.

The Most Improved Plot winner for 2024 will also be announced.