

# ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

## Minutes from Meeting held on 9th November 2024

**1. Present:** A Klecha (Chair), S Cheeseman (Membership Secretary), C Cheeseman (Committee), J Alabaster, B Alabaster, J Stephens, J Bishop, A Osborn, T Whiberley, L Brede, A Collins, S Simmonds, C Robertson, G Ashurst, K Fisher, S Klecha

**2. Apologies:** K Stephens, J Fielder, S Walsh, C Collins, L Dartnell

### **3. Minutes from 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Agreed and signed off

### **4. Matters Arising**

- AC asked what steel fuel is as he has never heard of it before. AK explained it is a new fuel to put in the Stihl Strimmer which can be left in there without damaging the carburettor

### **5. Rosedale Road Reports, Alan Collins (AC):**

- New plot holders have made a good start on their plots
- There has been a bit of a delay on delivery of the manure. Hopefully it should be coming next week
- Ordered a new light to replace the one over the shed
- Ordered a new pergola to be used for Open Day and social events
- Recent plot inspections show that most sites are in good condition
- AK said it is an ideal time to get on your plots to get things straight and tidy
- AK – there will be plot inspections before Christmas
- AC – if you get a chance, please empty the “dip tanks” at the bottom of your plots (not IBCs, but the plastic troughs), this will prevent them from freezing and also the need to replace ballcocks (which is what happened last year)
- CC mentioned that, at the recent bonfire night gathering, it was discussed amongst several people, about people taking things from plots on RR. **PLEASE REMEMBER IT IS ILLEGAL TO TRESPASS ON OTHER PEOPLE’S PLOTS!**
- CR stated he has seen several people in the early evening taking things of others plots
- Letter to be sent from The Committee, to every plot holder, stating **that if ANYONE is seen taking crops, or anything else, from other’s plots then they will be evicted**
- If anybody sees anything suspicious then please report it to The Committee immediately
- If you do approach them to discuss the issue, please do not get into a confrontation

### **6. Bull Meadow Report Andy Klecha (AK):**

- Manure is still available on site
- Woodchips are low
- Unfortunately, Les Dartnell is waiting for a knee operation and Alan Gorringe, who usually helps, has also not been well
- AK has been helping to cut the grass
- AK has had a meeting with the council about some of the trees
  - The poplar tree to be pollard
  - Holly trees on Les’s plot will be cut back
  - The ash tree will also be cut back

- AK has been working on Trevor's ½ plot and this should be ready to take over soon, however there are still a lot of weeds to clear
- SC suggested using weed killer, AK said this could be considered
- AK said any vacant plots would be better left until the spring to be let as it will give new plot holders more of a chance to get on top of things

#### **7. Treasurer's Report:**

- Current bank balance £5,672.63
- Petty cash £149.69
- All site fees have been paid
- Seed order made £34.60 – amount of people who ordered seeds this year as very low (only 9 people made orders)
- Water bill has been paid
- 3 new plot holders have paid their fees
- Website renewal has been paid

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

- 21 people on the waiting list – 5 in zone 1, 12 in zone 2 and the rest are out of area
- 3 ½ plots available on RR and ½ on Bull Meadow
- AC asked if people who are on the waiting list would be entitled to come to our monthly meetings
- AK stated they are not entitled to attend but are more than welcome
- The Council have contacted the committee for an update on how/who people can contact to be placed on the waiting list. SC stated that sometimes people will say they live in a certain zone but then, once they have obtained a plot, will have moved#
- CC stated the zoning system seems to be generally working ok – some people will put their names down on several sites and take which one comes up first
- It was suggested a questionnaire be sent to prospective new plot holders to ascertain how much time they will be able to give to their new plot etc.

#### **NB – zoning system**

- Zone 1 - within a mile of the sites
- Zone 2 – Grays/Stifford Clays
- Zone 3 – further out

#### **9. Any Other Business:**

- AC stated the money raised from the scrap metal goes into his personal account but suggested a new account be opened to enable the money to be paid direct into that – the money he receives from the scrap dealers can then be paid directly, rather than into his own account and him having to transfer it
- £16.50 was raised on the raffle tonight – thank you to Clive and Sheila Cheeseman for organising the prizes
- JS thanked everyone who attended the bonfire night gathering last Saturday and said it was a good night (maybe one or two drink too many – but fun was had by all!!)
- AK encouraged members to look at the website – Rosedale Road and Bull Meadow Allotment Association (RRBM)
- Winners of the prizes at the recent AGM were:
  - Best Above Ground – Julian Stephens for his cabbage
  - Best Below Ground – Bob Childs for his parsnips
  - Best Preserve – Sharon Walsh for her Raspberry and Lime Jam
  - Most Improved Plot – Len Brede and Tina Whiberley

#### 10. Veg Talk:

- CR handed out leaflets with an article that was mentioned in the newspaper
  - Poultry manure should be put down in the Spring not Autumn
- CR said it is not worth of buying a whole pallet of “Gro-Organic” as not many people buy it. He also said there is a lot of work involved in ordering it etc.
- Other members asked how much money was made from the sale of “Gro-Organic”. CR said we don’t make anything
- “Gro-Organic” is available to buy from The Chadwell Allotment Shop, but they charge more.
- Benefits of CR continuing to purchase and sell “Gro-Organic” to be discussed further at the January meeting

#### 11. Next Meeting:

- **Christmas Quiz and Social Gathering to be held at Tyrells Hall on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7.30pm** – all friends and family welcome, the more the merrier! Please bring one horticultural question and one general knowledge question. Drinks available from the bar – bring your own nibbles. Prizes will be awarded to the winners