

ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

MEETING 10th January 2025

1. Present: A Klecha (Chair), S Walsh (Secretary), S Cheeseman (Membership Secretary), C Cheeseman (Committee), J Stephens (Committee), K Walsh, C Robertson, S Klecha, B Childs, A Osborn (10 total)
2. Apologies: J Alabaster, B Alabaster, A Collins, L Dartnell, J Fielder (Treasurer), J Bishop, K Stephens, S Simmonds (8 total)
3. Minutes from 9th November 24: added K Walsh to apologies given. Chair thanked Tina Whiberley for taking the minutes, while Secretary on holiday.
4. Matters Arising:
 - a) **Winter Plot Inspections** were conducted on 3rd December 24. Focus was on paths being clear, weed control and size of trees on plots. AK will be holding a pruning demonstration on Saturday 1st February, 11.00am at Rosedale Road. SW to email invite to all members.
 - b) **Theft from plots update** warning notices are on display at both sites. All ploholders have had the November minutes emailed, which outlined concerns and possible actions. This meeting agreed that monitoring the number of reported thefts, uninvited folk on plots, etc will be a priority for the committee in 2025. SW will email all with guidelines, they will include reporting people on plots they shouldn't be on either just taking simple info, date, time etc to a more detailed response if ploholders are comfortable asking who and why type questions. Guidance will also include contact details etc. Consideration is being given to purchasing one or two trail/wildlife cameras for use in some simple monitoring on plots.
 - c) **Gro-organic** meeting agreed not to purchase, for resale to ploholders, in 2025. Bags can be purchased from Chadwell Allotment Shop at a lower price than from garden centres. This will be reviewed in time for 2026.
 - d) **Scrap metal account** held over as AC was not at meeting. Query regarding if the bank details on AC's scrap metal account with dealer could be changed to the RRBMAA account; that would work if AC only takes RRBMAA scrap to dealership.
5. Rosedale Road Report (Clive Robertson):
 - a) Manure gone, CR to order another load. Price remains at £25 a load.
 - b) CR gave latest water meter reading 5762.
 - c) CR has had 4 fires to clear huge amount of dried prunings, too much to use for dead hedging/wildlife habitat
 - d) Tree overgrowing plot 11 from "no-mans land" needs to be pruned heavily. Unclear who owns that land, AK will check on pruning demo day. RRBMAA may have to pay for tree removal.
 - e) Working party planned for 15th February – to be confirmed.
 - f) CR, on behalf of the meeting, thanked AC and SS for replacing the roof on the lean-to seating area.
6. Bull Meadow Report (Andy Klecha):
 - a) Manure and wood chips are both ordered, delivery date tbc
 - b) New locks purchased for gates. New codes will be set. AK will let BM ploholders know when in place. Hope that may stop some of the losses noted in 2024.
 - c) One half plot nearly ready to be let; AK will let SC know when ready.
 - d) Working party to be arranged possibly 9th February or 2nd March.
7. Treasurer's Report (SW with info from JF):
 - a) Bank balance £5378.81, confirmed to the penny by recent bank statement; petty cash £50.47. Total £5429.28.

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

- a) 21 on waiting list, waiting for go ahead on one half-plot on BM to be showed to people at top of zone 1 section of list.

9. Any Other Business:

a) **Social Events**

- AK presented Bob Childs with his trophies for Best Three Below Ground parsnips
 - Christmas Social/Quiz saw a small turnout but fun was had by all who attended. Short discussion as to why small turnout, could be change of date from 13th to 20th, people busy or ill, people not liking a quiz. Some ideas were shared as an alternative activity for 2025 Christmas Social – AK and JS to explore idea of a wreath making demonstration.
 - Drive & Meet Outings these are when people make their own way to a set meeting place/car park to then visit together somewhere such as an Apple Open Day. Drive yourself, or car share if spaces offered, some discussion about places that could be visited. Suggested as an alternative to arranging coach transport. For further discussion at later meetings.
- b) **Raffle** not held as not enough members present to make it viable, prizes to be held over to Feb meeting - thanks to Sheila and Clive for organising
- c) **Community Garden** CC and SC thanked BC & CR for repairing the compost bin lid, and SK for her big help over the last few weeks.
- d) **Veg Talk** – AK advised to protect any tender crops by covering with fleece, mulch, or manure. The birds are hungry and pigeons have been eating the tops out of plants – netting will help keep them away. Now is the perfect time to get all the prep done on your plots for the start of the new growing season.
- e) The **Allotment Shop Chadwell St Mary** opens Sunday 19th 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 will be £2. 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.

10. Next Meeting: 7.30pm Friday 14th February 2025 at Tyrells Hall Club