ROSEDALE ROAD & BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION - MEETING 13th November 2026

1. Present: A Klecha (Chair), S Walsh (Secretary), J Fielder (Treasurer), J Stephens (Committee), J Alabaster, B Alabaster, C Robertson, K Walsh, A Collins, J Bishop, Andy Felton, Jane Ballanger (12 total)

2. Apologies: S Cheeseman (Membership Secretary), C Cheeseman (Committee), S Klecha, B Childs, S Simmonds, A Davison, C Davison (7 total)

3. Minutes from 11th September 26: Amendment to minutes item 6a – correction raised through email by plot-holder "plums were stolen as effort had to be made to get at the fruit, pushing past netting and removing the whole plum including the stalk"; SW has amended the recording spreadsheet.

4. Matters Arising:

a) **Winter Inspection** – will be carried out across both sites very soon – focus will be on checking if plots are tidy for the quieter season, tree height, paths tidy and in place

b) **Car Parking at RR entrance** – AK has met with local councillors and has an ongoing conversation. The councillors are putting pressure on TC's transport department, same response as he had from them, in effect they would repaint the Keep Clear and reassess the road when it is on their schedule. AK has suggested the placing of a large concrete divider so blocking the parking at the Keep Clear sign. AK will also ask councillor to speak to the car owner directly. If you feel threatened by the car owners behaviour please contact/report to the local councillor and the police. Please keep up the flow of photos to illustrate the problem that he can use with the councillors – photos should be sent to either himself andyklecha@talktalk.net, or Sharon Walsh walshfamily212@btinternet.com

5. Theft from Plots/Incident Monthly Report (Sharon Walsh)

a) Nothing reported.

6. Rosedale Road Report (Alan Collins):

a) New plotholders are making great progress clearing and preparing their plots.

b) AK will still be needed to cut down a tree on plot 38N

c) Manure – load to be ordered

d) Some plotholders are putting too deep a level on their paths, this could be dangerous as can be slippy and hide dips that can cause a loss of balance, a depth of 3 inches/7.5 cms is advised by site team.

e) A rotavator was left at RR a few months ago, assumed donated as no one claimed it. This has been stripped down and put into general use – thank you. Recently a strimmer and a chain saw/hedge trimmer have been left, again do not know who by, or if donated. Please let us know if the items are donated so we can decide on best use of the kit.

f) AK thanked AC, CR and KW for their help preparing for the bonfire. Thank you to all who came along, 11 folk overall, and we were treated to a free fireworks display from our neighbours.

g) Water switched off, except for the handwash sink. CR reported latest water reading 6636.

7. Bull Meadow Report (Andy Klecha):

a) Les Dartnell has retired from Site Manager role at BM, he has been made an Honorary Life Member, been given a certificate and a garden centre voucher, as a thank you for all of his support and hard work over the last 20+ years. KW asked how this will be recorded going forward, AK will look at some sort of "roll of honour", including competition winners, and also putting onto the website.

b) Woodchip on site, manure arriving soon.

c) Overall site looks okay; car park area has been pruned back.

d) Anglian Water had to be reminded to come out and clear the site, they have now done so. AK has also chased the camera survey that was proposed by AW. AK asked that the plotholders who are dog walkers report any overflow seen on the playing fields between the allotment sites, that will help keep up the pressure on Anglian Water to fix the problem, rather than clear up! Anglian Water tel: 03457 145 145

8. Treasurer's Report (Jane Fielder):

a) Money out since last meeting
- key deposits returned to three departing plotholders
- Water bills have come in RR £1020.62 and BM £254.98

- Website domain renewal Nov 26/27 of £139.91
- NASLG renewal £206.50

b) Kings Seeds Orders – 10 members placed seed orders, which was sent on 5th November; delivery expected mid-end December. Earnt £39.55 for RRBMAA.

c) Bank account balance £5393.06, petty cash £305.11, making a total of £5698.17; comparable with same time last year balance of approx. £5900

9. Membership Secretary's Report (Sharon Walsh):

a) 6 on waiting list; 2 vacant plots on RR 7 & 35E, 1 vacant on BM 46A

b) Since September meeting we have said goodbye to Helen & Shaun Williams RR, Rosemary & Paul Dann RR, Tina Whiberley & Len Brede RR and Les Dartnell BM, and welcomed Maurice Hughes RR42W, Indushova Thapa RR11S and Abraham Coker RR38N.

c) SW now reviews and circulates plot maps with names to all committee members and site teams, on a monthly basis if changes have happened.

10. Any Other Business:

a) **Raffle** – not this meeting as Sheila & Clive unavailable

b) **AGM Competition** – AK presented trophies to Jane Fielder, Andy Felton and Jane Ballanger.

c) **Christmas Social** – Friday 11th December – meeting discussed ideas and decided on a Christmas Quiz with a Christmas Jumper competition as well. Every person to bring along two questions and answers to contribute to the quiz, at least one should be horticulturally related. Please bring your own nibbles, drinks to be purchased from the club bar. Family & friends are welcome; AK will share an invite with Thurrock Allotment Steering Group.

d) **Summer Scarecrow Competition** – was suggested at the meeting, maybe to coincide with the Annual Open day in mid-August.

e) **Veg Talk**

Sweet Potatoes – JB thinking of growing next year, JS reported he grew them successfully from seed, red and white fleshed varieties, they threw up a lot of vines and he had to dig deep to crop the roots/tubers. CR suggested JB used the large black tub on her plot. They can be propagated from "slips" taken from shop sweet potato.
Temperature increase next summer – JS raised the point to take into account when planning planting next year.
Japanese Onions/Garlic – keep cold for 3 weeks (in fridge) before planting out
Cauliflower – need constant, regular watering, like a steady temperature
Medlars – JBa hopes to make Medlar Cheese. AK said they grow to be very large trees, maybe a dwarf variety better suited to an allotment, a BM member has a medlar tree he will ask if they have excess fruit that JBa can use.
Broad beans – can be sown outside now, or into pots.
Tomatoes – AK and KW still picking a few tomatoes, frost expected over next few days will finish them.
Pink Fir Apple Potatoes – failed in 2026, but expected to be on sale in 2027 but at double the price of other potato varieties, Chadwell Allotment Shop expect to get some in and the price to be just under £6.

11. Next meeting:

a) Christmas Social Friday 11th December

b) Friday 8th January 2027

Both 7.30pm upstairs at Tyrells Hall Club, 67 Dock Road, Grays RM17 6EY