

Court Oak Road Allotments Association Committee Meeting

**Wednesday 7th August 2019 19:00 hrs
at Court Oak Allotments Shed**

Apologies: Derek Payne

Present: Astrid Fiess, Andrew Large, Ian Wilson, Glenys Nicklin, Geoff Garrish, Gail Bradley, Marian Stanley, Michael Fenwick, Stephanie Evans and Alison Lawson.

Minutes of last meeting 25.02.2019.

Agreed as correct by committee.

Matters arising from minutes 15.02.2019.

Proposed charges for renting space in community polytunnel has been dropped and is now to be free for all allotment holders. Queen Alexandra College (QAC) has not rented a plot. The oak tree reported to be unsafe has been reviewed by Birmingham City Council (BCC) tree surgeon and deemed to be safe. However the oak tree is not on the allotment site but on private land; if the oak tree is ever deemed unsafe an enforcement order would have to be obtained for its removal.

Chair's Report

Thanks given to all that helped in the success of the open day and plant sale. Following a discussion on the date for next years open day it was decided to keep the same time of year. We also will need to obtain some trestle tables for the open day as the raised beds used 2019 are no longer available. Stephanie Evans to try and obtain some tables from St Boniface Church. We do not want to rent tables as it is not cost effective and has cost approximately £500:00 over the last 3 to 4 years. Discussed the need for chairs, although we may have enough for our needs.

Reported that all raised beds have now been let and this has been a resounding success. A report in Harborne Life newspaper pictured the completed raised beds and said how well they had been received. Another allotment site has been in touch to find out how we obtained funds for our raised beds and have visited our site to view the completed raised beds. Geoff Garrish, instrumental in obtaining the original Lottery Grant for the raised beds, offered his advice.

It has been decided to go ahead with burning old and diseased wood on CORAA site on 10.11.2019 with the fire being lit at 16:30 hrs. A clean up day will be needed and the date set for this is Saturday 20.10.19 between 10a.m and midday. A skip is to be ordered by Andrew Large nearer the date for Friday 19.10.19.

Treasurers' Report.

CORAA accounts remain in credit with receipts matching payments. CORAA still retains the £9,975.00 (payment for the raised beds) until repairs to the road and erosion on raised bed site is repaired by contractors. Reports no water bill has been received from Water Plus and we retain £1500.00 for payment. We will have to initially pay sewage rates plus V.A.T but will be able to claim the amount back as CORAA do not put sewage into the drains, because we have septic tank.

Secretary's Report

Reports that water consumption on CORAA is within normal limits at approximately 100 – 300 units. We have probably used approximately 900 units since our last water bill and so should ensure that £1500.00 is kept in CORAA bank account for the next bill. Fittings for the new water butts are to be purchased to enable easy access to the water for £13.00 (hose and adapters). All agreed that normal size hose is adequate for the job and members agreed that Andrew Large purchase the

fittings. Signs to alert allotment holders to use the water butts and not the water taps to be put up on the shed together with a notice not to use hose pipes on their plots. Reports of two more plots given up and are now vacant. To endeavour to let the plots as standard and large. The vacancies are approximately 15–20 plots. Michael to send an official letter to GP's regarding the encouragement of exercise/mobility in connection with the letting of plots and possible funding.

Health and Safety Officer's Report

Reports that only two of the three hedge trimmers owned and used by CORAA are now in use with the third beyond repair. To query if CORAA needs another hedge trimmer. The garden hedge needs cutting as is very over grown at present probably will be done on clean up day (20.10.19).

Astrid Fiess injured her ankle during a visit to her allotment plot requiring medical attention at the hospital. An accident form was filled in as required by the standard regulations. Also relating to this accident it was suggested that a water proof first aid box be sited by the toilet block and one on the shed. This together with details of the contact number for the defibrillator box on the wall of the cooperative shop.

Rent Collection

The dates for the collection of rents has been emailed to all CORAA members with the same information being put onto the gates. The date to commence collecting the rent is October 11th 2019. We need to ensure the rates for the raised beds are included in the rents due (£14.00) per raised bed. There is an increase of £1.00 per plot for the rents 2019/2020.

Feedback

Michael Fenwick may enter his flowers in the Allotment Show at the Mac at Cannon Hill Park. Stephanie Evans also raised awareness of the allotments and social club houses on Cannon Hill Park that also have veg and flower displays with the produce going to St Mary Hospice after the event closes.

A.O.B

CORAA will need an order of supplies for the shed soon e.g poles and compost. The Metaldehyde contained in slug pellets has had a reprieve from the ban initially imposed by the government but will be implemented as soon as a new bill has been passed and therefore to attempt to buy Ferrous Phosphate slug pellets if available.

Date of next meeting The Court Oak Road Pub

18.11.2019

7:30 pm