

**Court Oak Road and Tennial Lane Allotments Association  
Honorary President Alan Harper  
Committee Meeting Tuesday 6th December 2011**

**Minutes**

**Attendance**

Dave Watkins TL, Glenys Nicklin TL, Andrew Large TL.  
Ian Wilson COR, John McCarthy COR, Roger Cobley COR, John McQuay COR,  
Marian Stanley COR, Joanne Stubbs COR, John Bland COR.

**1) Apologies**

Alan Walsh TL, Pauline Webb TL, Mick Clayton COR, May O'Brien COR.

**2) Acceptance of Minutes 6/9/11**

Amend item 3 Matters Arising - Ken Brown is a Ward Support Officer not Councillor. He has been very helpful with allotment matters but has now moved to a different area.

**3) Matters Arising**

**(i) Asbestos**

The asbestos needs to be bagged and a collection arranged. We need special bags from the council department responsible. John McQuay will arrange about the bags and members of the committee volunteered to help with the clear up.

**(ii) Rubbish Collection**

Andrew had arranged for a rubbish from Tennial Lane. A large amount was removed. Another collection needs to be arranged

**(iii) Report on Rent Collection**

This went very well. Andrew did a good job and nearly all the rents were collected with only a few non payers now being followed up by the Allotments Department

**(iv) Association Membership**

70 members to date making £140 pounds. In the New Year we will do a flyer for the local houses, gardening clubs and community centre

**4) Report from the Birmingham Allotments Conference**

The two delegates, John McQuay and John Bland gave very positive feedback.

The Conference was and excellent, well organised and informative with talks on fund raising, the Community Payback Scheme and water conservation. They recommended that more committee members be encouraged to attend next year

John Bland described how we could save water especially as the water will be turned off for the winter at both sites. He suggested we bought water butts to collect the rain water from the toilet blocks at both sites and from the sheds at COR. We can buy water butts for around £6.

Andrew proposed that we that we adopt John's suggestion and this was accepted unanimously.

**5) Newsletter and Website**

John McQuay and Andrew will compile the newsletter ready for the AGM in March and Andrew will put a website together. Both will contains links to other relevant sites, hints and tips, shop stock and other items including the benefits of Association Membership.

## **6) Shed Tool Hire**

We have a strimmer and rotavator available. Ian will do a sign to let people know. More keys need to be available for the shed to enable hire collections and returns to be carried out, also a note of costs and terms.

## **7) Officers Reports**

### **(i) Chairman**

Ian Wilson gave a big thank you to John Bland for his excellent work on the Presidents Bench and surrounding garden. The bench will be put in place in the spring and as there is some funds left from the donations flowers and climbers will be planted. We will also need a brass plaque.

The shop will be open all Sundays throughout the winter except for Christmas and New Years Day, (both on Sundays this time)

There have been no complaints about pest damage.

There will be a wire cage made for the leaf mould.

### **(ii) Treasurer**

There is £150 left in the Presidents Bench fund. Association Membership is £140 to date  
There is a trading surplus of £863.

### **(iii) Secretary**

There is no one on the waiting list at the moment, all the names on the list have been contacted and cleared. Four plots were let in the last month, there are no vacant plots at Tennial Lane and four plots to be let at COR. It is the Allotments Department responsibility to inform people of the vacancies but it was felt that a card could be put in the community centre notifying possible applicants.

Erica Price has resigned from the committee and her husband had signed off on the accounts for last year. Alison - on the plot next to Ian - will look at the accounts for next year.

## **8) Feedback from Plot Holders**

### **(i) Court Oak Road**

People want to know what is happening so we must have copies of the Committee paperwork available in the shed and on the new website.

We need to repair and paint the main shed. A request for funds for materials was made by John Bland.

We need a new NO PARKING sign on the outer gates as drivers park there preventing access to and from the Allotment. This is a continuing nuisance.

### **(ii) Tennial Lane**

No problems reported. Everyone there very pleased at the removal of the rubbish and general tidying.

## **9) Any Other Business**

At a recent meeting of the Quinton Ward Committee there were concerns expressed about the development of the Martineau Centre site adjacent to the Court Oak Road Allotment site.

Quinton Leisure Gardens and the BDAC are making complaints to the Council about the change in the notice of the rent increases. Roger Cobley is collecting signatures for a petition.

Letters of complaint have been sent out to plot holders who are not maintaining their plots and there are still problems. It was suggested that a Grounds Improvement

Sub-Committee was formed with the brief of photographing the plots, identifying the materials that should be removed and speaking to the individuals concerned. This to be done as soon as possible.

**10) Date time and venue of next Committee Meeting**

Tuesday 7th February 2012, 7.30pm, Quinborne Community Centre