Court Oak Road Allotments Association

Committee Meeting Tuesday 23rd June 2015 7:00pm
at The Shed on the Court Oak Road Site

Attendance

Ian Wilson, Chair. John McQuay, Treasurer. Andrew Large, Secretary. Geoff Garrish, Site and Safety Officer. May O’Brien, Glenys Nicklin, Alison Lawson, Andy Moseley, Marian Stanley.

1) Apologies

None

2) Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising April 2015

Minutes accepted and no matters arising.

3) Officers’ Reports

(i) Chair’s report.

A couple of plots have not been cultivated so letters need to be sent to the holders requesting action. Secretary has already done this

The President’s Garden needs mowing, weeding and the hedge cutting. Mark Stephens will do this with helpers.

The mares tail on some plots has been sprayed with Kurtail and will need spraying again. Mark Stephens will loan his Knapsack weed sprayer meanwhile.

The Sprayer and the Scythe Cutter need servicing. Mark will help John McQuay with this

The Open Day sub committee need to arrange a meeting. John, Geoff and Marian will do this.

(ii) Treasurer’s report

John has heard from the BDAC that Tennal Lane has opened their bank account so the money can be transferred as soon as John has a letter from the Tennal Lane committee confirming their acceptance of a full and final figure. The Court Oak Road funds stand at £1786 + £400, from BCC, ring fenced for maintenance. The shop is well stocked at the moment. It is hoped to obtain funding towards purchasing a shipping container to store equipment securely.

(iii) Secretary’s report.

After sending emails requesting contact and not getting replies Andrew has sent out two formal letters to holders re cultivation and there is another two who he will talk with first before taking any formal action. Any eviction notices have to go through the BCC formal procedure. There have been lots of inquiries about vacancies. Empty plots have become very overgrown and are not suitable for viewing so they need to be cleared first. Large plots can...
be divided up.

(iv) Site and Safety report

Site inspection took place on the 16th June and the previous report has been updated. We now have waste bins situated by the Shop for glass collection and an email needs to go out to holders so they can safely dispose of any glass from their plots. Plots with glass have been identified and those holders will be asked to clear it. The weeds on some sites are quite long and it is difficult to see if there is glass/rubbish there so in the winter/spring the grass will be cut and a skip hired to collect any waste. In the alley behind the site at the top a pile of logs has been dumped making it easy for someone to climb over the fence into the site. The BCC Environmental Services have been informed and we have requested they remove the logs. The fence at the top has been damaged and needs repairing. The brick wall around the tap by the Shop needs to be repaired, and the down pipe by the toilet needs to be replaced.

Andy and Mark will look at doing these jobs.

4) Newsletter

We missed the Spring Newsletter because of the dissolution of the two sites but will do one to advertise the Open Day. Items will include a call for more volunteers to help with site maintenance.

5) Feedback from Plot Holders

A complaint that badgers/foxes have caused damage to some crops on a plot near to the hedge. It is thought that building work on the site next door is disturbing them. Badgers are protected so we can’t stop them getting on to the allotment.

There has been comments about the long grass/weeds on some vacant plots. These will be dealt with once the scythe cutter has been serviced.

6) Any Other Business

Mark Stephens was asked co-opted as a committee member. He was nominated by Andy and seconded by Andrew.

We need to get some publicity together to leave at the show home on the building site next door (Martineu Centre) to make the new residents aware of the allotment as a community amenity.

The Open Day (30/8/15) sub committee meeting will be on 14th July at John McQuay’s house.

7) Date, Venue and Time of next Meeting

11/8/15, 7pm at the Shop.