

**Court Oak Road Allotments Association
Committee Meeting
Monday 18th November 2019
19:30hrs
The Court Oak Public House**

Apologies

Ian Wilson

Present

Geoff Garrish, Alison Lawson, Astrid Fiess, Marian Stanley, Georgia Dunn, Derek Payne, Glenys Nicklin and Andrew Large.

Minutes of previous meeting 07.08.2019 and matters arising.

Water bill still has not arrived for payment and a query on the statute of limitations of 6yrs has been reported on back payment of bills.

Reports that the water butts have been a success and fully used by allotments members. Clean up day went well and a full skip removed from site.

Chair Report

No report was available as the chair did not attend meeting and a report was not sent. Geoff Garrish was acting chair for the duration of the meeting.

Treasurers Report

Georgia Dunn and Andrew Large attended Lloyds Bank to officiate the bank transfer of rent monies to Birmingham City Council. This needed two signatories for the money transfer to proceed and has now been completed.

Receipts from current year (2019) are slightly down on last year (2018).

Late rent payers will now have to pay monies direct to Birmingham City Council and will incur a £10:00 penalty on top of their rents.

Court Oak Allotments Bank Account is in very good order with £00.01p in the rent account and £7100:00 in the current account with £500.00 to be deposited.

To keep a key liability of £700:00 (key deposits) in bank account.

Court Oak Allotments shop has had a good year with a good average profit made with plenty of stock for next year.

Money kept for the water bill account stands at £1500:00.

Also the Court Oak Allotment accounts will need to be audited and Dr Alison Lawson will undertake this duty.

Georgia Dunn to update the prices of the commodities in the shop to compare favourably with commercial sellers. Also to make information cards to inform members of the different types of composts and other commodities together with their uses.

Members agreed that any unwanted garden tools to be donated to St Mary's Hospice.

To look for trestle tables for open day but need to fold away for storage.

To evaluate if we need new signs to advertise Court Oak Allotments.

Plot number 3 by the entrance gate was noted to be an eyesore as it is now overgrown. The plot holder has renewed his membership and so it was decided to approach the plot holder with a suggestion of moving to an alternative site. This would allow the prominent site to be made presentable and become welcoming to visitors to Court Oak Allotments. It was suggested by the

committee to put raised beds where there is excess water to enable some degree of landscaping to be attempted. If the plot holder of plot 3 was amenable to moving it was suggested to cut back the grass and weeds prior to the letting of the alternative plot.

Need to obtain a quote for the landscaping and this would probably be from the builders of the raised beds already in situ.

Secretary's Report

Suggestion made to put individual lockers in the Asgard metal locker used by the raised plot holders possibly second hand.

Skip collected and fully paid for.

Reiterated that rents had been collected and money transfer completed.

Safety Officer

Reports that an ex fireman has started a tree cutting service and also delivers wood chippings. He has delivered a couple of loads but at the moment does not have a key. To assess him for security and offer him a key later in the new year if found to be reliable.

It is now time to drain all power tools of fuel and oil for the winter and Geoff Garrish to complete this task.

Water has now been turned off and to remain so until March 2020.

It has been noted that not many people volunteer to cut the grass paths and parking areas. It has been noted that the grass cutting has been left to Mr Geoff Garrish and is too much for one person to do. Many thanks given to Geoff Garrish for all his hard work in keeping the grassy areas tidy. Therefore a rota is to be circulated and hopefully enough people will volunteer to help keep the grassy areas tidy. This rota will be generated together with the rota for the shop.

Feedback

It has been reported that many apples and pears have gone missing around the allotment site. It was at first thought to be badgers or foxes but some fruit was missing from a high point on trees. Therefore it was suggested that a night time camera set up with a movement activator to catch the culprit.

A.O.B

Alison Lawson has kindly offered an old but sturdy table. It has been accepted and will possibly fit into the small shed.

To discuss plant sale at next meeting.

Date of next meeting :-

Tuesday 11th February 2020

Venue

Court Oak Public House

at 19:30hrs.

Geoff Garrish to book room.