

**Court Oak Road Allotments Association
Committee Meeting
Saturday 3rd October 2015 2:00pm
at The Shed on the Court Oak Road Site**

Attendance

Ian Wilson - Chairman, John McQuay - Treasurer, Andrew Large - Secretary, Geoff Garrish - H&S, Andy Moseley, Alison Lawson, Marian Stanley.

1) Apologies

May O'Brien, Glenys Nicklin

2) Minutes of Previous Meeting 11/8/2015 and Matters Arising

Re Secretary's Report the plot holder who was digging outside his plot boundary has promised to stop doing it. Andrew has obtained copies of the BCC rules to give to each plot holder when paying their rent.

3) Report On The Open Day 30/9/2015

Takings were down on last year but the weather was very wet so we were glad we bought the Party Tent. Many thanks to all who contributed their time and resources a which made the day a great success for all those hardy visitors who braved the weather. Many of them stayed all afternoon for tea and cakes. Thanks to Andy Moseley for collecting and returning the tables and chairs, Mark and colleagues from New Roots and Hilary Garrish for the Prize Cake.

We made a very small profit but Andrew signed up seven new plot holders so all in all it was a success.

4) Officers' Reports

i) Chairman

Ian suggested a site inspection early next year (Feb/March2016), to view unworked plots and to suggest to those holders they start to cultivate their plots if they want to keep them as eviction notices for unworked plots get sent out around Easter time.

ii) Treasurer

The shop is making a small profit so we are in a position to be able to purchase equipment and John is researching costs for a long handled lopper/saw. We need this to trim and lop the hedges around the site. BCC provides us with a maintenance budget which goes towards buying equipment.

iii) Secretary

Andrew has been monitoring the water meter every month and we are well within our budget. To date we have used 99 units.

The Septic Tank needs servicing but the BCC contracted company has not been responding to Andrews emails. He will persist with them but If necessary Andrew will find another company to do the work.

The laurel hedge needs to be trimmed hence the need for the lopper. This needs to be done in the winter when the shrubs are dormant. Help will be needed to collect and tidy up the trimmings.

Andrew has signed up seven plot holders. (see Open Day Report).

We need to spray a plot infested with Mares Tail. This will have to be done in the spring when the plant is a few inches high. We had supplies of Kurtail for spraying.

iv) Site and Safety Report

We need to hire a skip in the new year and to remind plot holders to clear their sites of glass and place it in the wheelie bins situated by the shop.

Wood rubbish that has been dumped in the passage way behind the site at the top is a cause for concern as it might enable unauthorised entry into our site. A CCTV camera has been setup on one of the houses overlooking the passage way and a sign placed there to deter any more dumping but we need to make good the fence there that has been broken. Geoff will purchase the wire. The passage way is on private land but we could request that the BCC remove the wood pile. It was suggested that we plant a Pyracanthas hedge along the rear of the site to deter intruders.

5) Key Deposits

We need to have more keys cut and they are quite expensive so Andrew suggested that the key deposit went up to £20 from the 1st October to encourage tenants to return keys when they give up their plot. The suggestion was accepted unanimously.

6) Feedback From Plot Holders

None

7) Any Other Business

Geoff and John have compiled a discussion paper for a Lottery Funding Bid. They had highlighted several proposed purchases, mainly an ex shipping container for secure storage of our equipment, provision of facilities for disabled gardeners, better parking facilities, community composting and solar panels for lighting and heat in the shop. Other suggestions from the committee members were water conservation and more equipment. These proposals, if implemented would take place over a number of years so we would need to prioritise needs to make the best use of a Lottery bid. We would also need to keep the BCC informed of any decisions before implementing actions or purchases.

Other AOB, Need plot numbers for each plot and a reminder to all holders that they are responsible for keeping their access paths trimmed and tidy.

8) Date, Time and Venue for next Meeting

Tuesday 12th January 2016, 7.30 at Quinborne Community Centre