

Court Oak Road and Tennal Lane Allotment Society

Honorary President Alan Harbour

Committee Meeting Tuesday 9th September 2014
7.00pm at the Shop Court Oak Road

Attendance

Ian Wilson COR, Chairman, Andrew Large COR and TL, Secretary, John McQuay COR, Treasurer, Stuart Guest TL, Dave Watkins TL, Marian Stanley COR, Geoff Garrish

1) Apologies

Andy Moseley, Glenys Nicklin

2) Acceptance of Minutes 8/7/14

Unanimous

3) Matters Arising

None

4) Dates for Rent Collection and Newsletter.

Andrew will circulate the Newsletter with the dates for Rent Collection. The rents have gone up slightly. The council set the rents, we have no control over this. If plot holders are unhappy about the rent rise they need to complain directly to the Council.

Andy Moseley and Stuart Guest did a marvellous job in getting the site tidy for the Open Day, many thanks to them. Tennal Lane gate will get a new padlock and the holders will get new keys. Stuart will action this, also the keys for the water tap box cannot be recut so Stuart will attach a chain and padlock and issue keys to each holder. This is to help conserve the water supply.

John McQuay suggested that all plot holders be asked to sign up to give a few hours over the year to help keep the two sites tidy and to help in the shop. A list of names would be useful and a list tasks. At Tennal Lane volunteers are desperately needed to help with clearing a plot. We are all responsible for the maintenance of our sites. The shop will be open Sundays 11am-12noon up to the end of November and will close for December and January, open again in February depending on the weather. We will make a decision at the January meeting on the shop opening hours, possibly on extra days but this does depend on getting volunteers.

5) Report on the Open Day

We are really pleased with the turn out on the Day. Approx 1200 leaflets were distributed to the surrounding streets. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed the cakes, plants, jams and preserves. Thank you to all who donated items. The raffle was a great success, the winner of the cake was delighted, special thanks go to Hilary Garrish for making such a lovely cake. We will send a letter of thanks to people who donate prizes, Geoff will action this.

After expenses we made approx £200. For the next Open Day we need to explore other ways of getting publicity. Having this kind of event opens the possibility of getting extra funding for the sites. This is important as we have to maintain the sites ourselves and we need to have the equipment to do this.

6) Officers' Reports

(i) Chairman's Report

Well done to everyone for their work on preparing the site for the Open Day
Ian Wilson has sprayed Kurtail on places where Mares Tail grows and this has worked. It will need to be sprayed again as new plants grow but it is a start and the problem will lessen. Also he will try compost activator as this contains ammonia which kills weeds and might be less costly. Stuart will use Kurtail at Tennial Lane for the same purpose.
The new strimmer is very useful and was made good use of in clearing the site for the Open Day.

The parking area at the top of the court Oak site needs clearing and making good with bark chippings. We need a rota for work that needs doing, volunteers please.

(ii) Treasurer's Report

John will be preparing the half yearly accounts for the 6th October and needs help with the stock take. The shop has been busy in the first 22 weeks with sales of a variety of stock items including water butts, potatoes and seeds.

(iii) Secretary's Report

The water usage at Tennial Lane is still very high and is almost at the whole years' budget. Though there is no leak we may have to turn it off soon. It was agreed to let it go over budget until the reading reaches 3250 units. Andrew and Stuart will keep a check on the readings.

The Secretary will have to send a letter of intent to evict to a holder at Tennial Lane as their plot has not been worked and is very overgrown. They have until March to get it into a workable condition.

At the Court Oak Road site the managers of the plot for the Excluded Pupils have been asked to reapply and give an outline of the curriculum in an effort to control the students and keep them working while at the site. The students have caused a nuisance in the past. If there are any more problems they will be asked to leave.

7) Feedback from Plot Holders

(i) Court Oak Road

None

(ii) Tennial Lane

It was thought that turning off the water at Tennial Lane will cause resentment.

A decision was taken to extend the budget limit to 3250 and this will be covered from other budgets, see above, Secretary's Report.

8) Any Other Business

Stuart requested laminated signs re bonfires in November and March.

Stuart and Geoff have been on a Risk Awareness course this last week.

Stuart has started a waste disposal area at Tennial Lane.

Geoff has submitted a bid for Section 106 planning, on behalf of the two sites, to the Council.

9) Date time and Venue of the next Committee Meeting

25th November 2014. Time and Venue to be confirmed.