

Leominster Allotment Association meeting

Wednesday 18th March 2015, 7.00pm, at the Town Council Offices, Leominster.

Committee members present: Lesley Marsh (Chair), John Braithwaite, Cathy Fewlass, Jane Lacey, Viv Pearson, Chris Preece, Ray Wall,

Others present: H Harding (Deputy Town Clerk), B Addyman, R Read, J Redshaw, D Wall.

Minutes: Christine Conlon **Apologies:** B Antink, S Gallimore, M Locock, D Maund.

Items	Actions
<p>Minutes approval – minutes from previous meeting, 28/1/15, approved.</p>	
<p>Matters arising (unless already on agenda)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to local school – no response received yet to Lesley’s letter (re:pupil interest in allotments). 	
<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSALG delegate and Proxy forms received – passed to Jane Lacey • “Allotment” Magazines – received by Lesley and distributed at the meeting (please read them and then pass on to circulate amongst members). 	
<p>Site inspections and plots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesley and Heather visited the site recently. At this stage (mid-March), there isn’t a lot that can be done down at the allotments. • A green polytunnel was noticed sited on an allotment. Deputy Town Clerk Heather is aware of it and at this juncture cannot see a problem. It is courtesy, though, to refer to the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk first, before siting anything like this at the allotments. • There are approximately 8 empty useable pots. 	
<p>The Communal Shed and the Communal Plot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The communal shed is now secure. Thanks go to Ray. • Furniture for the Communal shed – there is some stored in the cube which will be used. Also, there is a flag with the Leominster Allotment Association logo on it, which could be used. It’s possible that this could be a vulnerable target. Siting of this is yet to be decided. • Ray has offered to rotavate the Communal plot if the weather is good enough at the end of the week. • John reported that there are rootstock of redcurrants, Goji Berries and Blackcurrants for the Communal plot and any harvested fruit could be used to be made into saleable items to add to allotment funds. 	
<p>Pests and other allotment problems</p> <p>Moles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following on from the LAA request for the Mole problem to be investigated, 	

<p>Heather accompanied the pest controller to see where the moles had been causing problems. A quote would have to be prepared and considered before any decision was made by the Town Council. Treatment would only be to the pathways and not on the allotments and, if auctioned, any process would be taken at the beginning of April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment could include gassing the moles. Chris Preece asked Heather not to pursue that option any further and the committee was in agreement not to continue with mole destruction and the quotation. • Members decided to deter the moles. Solutions offered included repelling them by noise/vibration. Commercially available products emit low frequency vibration, are humane and will not harm. The soil from molehills could be either raked back to fill mole holes or used within the allotments. <p>Rats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rat problem is ongoing. Rat traps are kept to the outside of the plots. 	
<p>Fund raising ideas</p> <p>Car Boot Sale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesley will ‘man’ the Car Boot sale. A car and trailer may be required for this but details are still to be discussed. • Planned for a weekend in August. Possibly Sunday 30th August, but date to be confirmed. Time to set up at Brightwells is 7am. • We need saleable items of reasonable quality but no clothes or toys. Remaining items can go straight to the St Michael’s Hospice shop. <p>Leominster in Bloom – Plant Fair on the Grange</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding a stall at the Plant Fair on the Grange in late Spring may also bring in funds – Saturday May 30th at 10.00am • Need to meet beforehand to discuss details such as what to do if it is a wet day, what produce to sell, who will provide a table etc. <p>Plan to have an official opening of the Communal Shed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly choosing a date to coincide with the Leominster Festival which is 30th May – 7th June. • Teas and cakes on site. Shelter needs to be provided. Will we hold a BBQ? • There are no “Leominster Open Gardens” this year. Instead, there will be a charity shop opening up in April in Leominster hoping to raise funds for the next Leominster Open Gardens event. <p>Details of all the above will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>All to note and action</p> <p>All to note and action</p> <p>All to note and action</p>
<p>Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viv has written the last two Newsletters. There is another one due in late Spring, in May. 	<p>All to note</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please send contributions to the newsletter (to Viv) by the end of April. • The Newsletter will be added to the website, in the Documents section, once the website goes live. 	<p>and action</p>
<p>Diary Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Fair – Saturday 30th May 2015. • Car Boot Sale – Sunday 30th August 2015. • Official opening of the Communal Shed – date to be confirmed. • Regional NSALG meetings – some meetings have lapsed 	
<p>Website address : www.leominsterallotments.org.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still in draft format at the time of this meeting, but progressing. • Suggested articles for the website, “ A History of Allotments” (Cathy) • Chris will need to train a small number of people to add text to the website. • The website will be useful to signpost the Town Council website, as theirs will signpost the allotment website. • Content: calendar of events, resources such as the latest Newsletter, archived minutes, Pictures (gallery). Latest news. 	
<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer of carpet - An offer of carpet for weed suppressing has, unfortunately, had to be turned down. This is because carpet is not allowed on the allotments as a suppressant (due to chemicals contained). • Kings Seeds orders - Now that there is a Communal shed, any Kings Seeds orders for collection by customers could be taken down to the Communal Shed, rather than being collected from the Town Council Offices. Alternatively, the ordered goods could be collected from John Braithwaite’s home at a designated time. Details to be communicated nearer to the time. • Leominster Allotment Association membership – this is proving time consuming for the Deputy Town Clerk to collect on behalf of the Association. Presently, the £5 is collected alongside the annual tenancy subscription, but involves another receipt, and money is then to be paid to the Association.. Heather has agreed to continue for the time being. Offers of help from the Committee members were made in the meeting. • Offer of manure – An offer of well-rotted manure has been made by Hilary Hunt (Roger Hunt’s widow). It would need a trailer to be collected if the offer is taken up. • Plot 54 - a legal agreement is being prepared by the Town Council and the allotments for the status of plot 54. Lesley and Heather will discuss. • Shed on vacant plot – Following the ending of a tenancy, resulting in a vacant plot, a misunderstanding has occurred between the Association and 	

<p>the Town Council.</p> <p>The situation arose when a shed on the vacant plot was donated to the Association by the outgoing tenant. At the same time, the shed was thought to have been left for the new tenants.</p> <p>The current situation is that the shed was moved and sited next to the Communal shed. At the same time, the new tenants were expecting a shed on their plot.</p> <p>Chair Lesley noted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">that all sides acted in good faith;mixed messages had been at the root of the misunderstandings;there is a need to establish a protocol for the future:that communications between the Association and the Landlords remain open and clear. <p>Chair Lesley requests that all parties draw a line under it and move on.</p>	
<p>Next meeting Date of next meeting, Wednesday 20th May, 7pm, Town Council Offices. Please bring a copy of these minutes with you to the next meeting.</p>	

Agenda for Leominster Allotment Association meeting.

Wednesday 20th May 2015, 7pm, Town Council Offices, Leominster.

- Apologies
- Approval of minutes
- Matters arising
(unless matter is already on agenda)
- Any correspondence
- Site inspections – report
- Communal shed and Communal plot
- Website
- Pests and similar problems
- Fund raising - progress
- Newsletter
- Diary dates
- Any Other Business
- Date of next meeting