

Leominster Allotment Association meeting

Wednesday 13th January 2016, 7.00pm, at the Town Council Offices, Leominster.

Committee members present: Lesley Marsh (Chair), John Braithwaite, Steve Gallimore, Jane Lacey, Gill Murdoch, Viv Pearson, Chris Preece.

Others present: H Harding (Deputy Town Clerk).

Minutes: Christine Conlon.

Apologies: Cathy Fewlass, Ray Wall.

Items	Actions
<p>Minutes from previous meeting – The minutes were approved.</p>	
<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fund-raising event at the Oaks Charity shop, planned for 20/11/15, didn't take place due to insurance issues. Insurance is effective if sufficient notice is given to the insurers and also if the event takes place on the allotment site. 	
<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An e-mail was sent to John McNab (West Midland Region Secretary, National Allotment Society) suggesting that the Leominster Allotment Association could host a meeting on 6/8/16. No response yet. • Dana Eames (Leominster Festival Committee) contacted Lesley with details of events on the Grange, including Community Funtime on Bank Holiday Monday, 30th May, 12-4pm. • Details received from John McNab about February Quarterly Meeting of West Midland Region of the National Allotment Society, 6/2/16, at Trehurst Community Centre, Great Barr in Birmingham. 	<p>Lesley to reply</p>
<p>Site inspections and plots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plots were inspected by Heather and Jane Lacey. • Heather will speak to some plot holders, to alert them to the condition of their plots. • Dates have been set for regular monthly inspections. • At the moment, walkways are slippery and people need to take care on them. <p>Works undertaken on site – progress report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurfacing work to the roadway between the two car parks has been completed. However the roadway has suffered heavy vehicle damage to the surface and kerbing. The surface now needs rolling or 'thwacking'. • Feedback to be given to the company about any short-comings. • The drainage works have yet to be done. • The compost bins will be sited next to the transformer. 	

<p>Flooded plots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve requested that the plots on the left-hand side of the roadway (going in the direction of the cattery lane end) should be left unfenced, to make them easier to mow. He has spoken to John Moss to ask him to harrow and level the plots in order to grass-plant them, then leave them to see what results. • Steve also suggested that posts are put into the above-described allotments, to deter people from parking on them or driving over the plots. • Suggestions to plant trees and shrubs: alder, willow, fruit, cranberry. Research into damp-loving plants to enhance the area. • A book is to be placed in the shed for contributions of ideas. <p>Other allotment matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather will pass information to Lesley about oiling locks. • Western Power – alert signs for two cables to be made. <p>Signs about locking up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gate has been left open on several occasions. Signs to be made to remind people that if they think they are the last one out, to lock up. If in doubt, lock up. Always take your key with you when going to the allotments. 	<p>Heather to action these and the following</p>
<p>Pests and similar problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog mess on the allotment paths has become a problem. • Be vigilant and please report any more incidents to Heather, especially if dog owners are identified. • Jane will include this subject in the forthcoming newsletter. • Lesley re-stated that allowing dogs on allotments is a privilege, not a right. 	<p>All to note Jane to action</p>
<p>Categories for judging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather is to formally invite Nick, Frances or another person to Judge the allotments again in 2016, on behalf of the Town Council. • The judges will be assessing the allotments from March to September. • ‘Best Newcomer’ certificate to be awarded this time. • Heather to provide information about qualifying start date of newcomers. • Frances has the parameters of what the judges will be looking for. • To help the judges and with normal plot identification, all plot numbers must be clearly visible and legible. This must be complete by April. 	<p>Heather to action All to action</p>
<p>Community shed roof</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting the shed roof leak to the supplier is in progress. • Photographic evidence is to be taken by Chris Preece. • After the matter has been resolved, it may be advisable to consider lining the roof with hardboard and fitting guttering. 	<p>C Preece to action</p>

<p>Composting workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest was sought, for holding a Composting Workshop at Grange Court. This was offered by Kate Gathercole (Master Composter and Director of New Leaf Sustainable Developments Ltd). • Two members declared interest. If arranged with a date there may be more. • Lesley to contact Kate - we would like to do the workshop in early Spring. 	<p>Lesley to action</p>
<p>Water – turning on and off</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ray has turned the water off for the winter. • When convenient for Ray, he will show Chris Preece and Steve Gallimore where to locate the tap and how to turn the water on and off. • Thanks were expressed for Ray, for repairing some water tanks that have suffered damage and some that have sunk into the ground as a result of the excessive amount of rainfall. 	<p>Ray to action</p>
<p>Leominster Allotments - 10th anniversary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council would like to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Leominster allotments. Please send any ideas or suggestions about how to mark this anniversary, to the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk. • LAA to meet in February to talk about some ideas. The date, time and venue (<i>possibly 12th February, after 4pm at the Talbot</i>) are to be confirmed by Lesley. 	<p>All to action Lesley to action</p>
<p>Diary Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Fair on the Grange – Leominster in Bloom – Saturday 28th May. The LAA hopes to have a stall there. Lesley will request a pitch for us. <p>Since there is good advance notice for this, we can all prepare for it (e.g.by growing plants to sell). Last year, sticks of rhubarb sold particularly well. John Braithwaite was asked about obtaining split perennials for the event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Funtime on the Grange – Monday 30th May, 12 – 4pm, organised by Diana Emes (Leominster Festival Committee). • Leominster Allotments - 10th anniversary. To be discussed in February. 	<p>Lesley to action All to action</p>
<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kings Seed orders – John Braithwaite has completed delivering the Kings Seed orders – all delivered by hand. John will require fuller contact details next time, as it was difficult to trace some purchasers who had submitted their orders by name alone. <p>Thanks went to John for organising this and for ensuring safe delivery of</p>	

<p>orders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security marking – this has been put off until another time.• Allotments – Heather said that the Town Council will not be looking for rent increases for 2016 - 17.• Collecting rents and allotment subscriptions together – The LAA members are to help Heather and Paul to collect the rents and subscriptions altogether.	
<p>The next meeting is on Wednesday 9th March, 7pm, Town Council offices, Leominster.</p> <p>Please bring your copy of the minutes with you to the meeting – thank you.</p>	

Agenda

- Approval of minutes
- Correspondence
- Matters arising from the last minutes (unless the item is already on the agenda)
- Site inspections an plots
- Work undertaken on the site – progress report
- Pests and similar problems
- Composting workshop
- Plant Fair
- Leominster Allotments – 10th anniversary
- Diary dates
- Any other business
- Date and venue of next meeting
- Meeting close