

**Leominster Allotment Association meeting**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017, 7.00pm**, at the Town Council Offices, Leominster.

**Committee members present:**

G Murdoch (Chair), J Braithwaite, C Fewlas, S Gallimore, J Lacey, V Pearson, R Wall

**Others present:** J Debbage, D Wall **Apologies:** C Preece, L Marsh

**Minutes:** C Conlon

Items	Actions
<p><b>Minutes from previous meeting, 4/1/17</b> Amendment to the term “Community Flower-beds” required. They should have been referred to as “Mini-plots”. The minutes were then approved.</p>	
<p><b>Correspondence</b> – none reported.</p>	
<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Edging of mini-plots</b> – completed.</li> <li>• <b>Kings Seeds orders</b> – potatoes arrived. Some items outstanding which Kings will deliver nearer their planting time.</li> <li>• <b>Pruning perimeter trees</b> – pruned.</li> <li>• <b>Awards list</b> – on website.</li> <li>• <b>Promotion of LAA in Leominster News magazine</b> – done.</li> <li>• <b>Newsletter</b> – distributed by email, hard-copy and on website.</li> <li>• <b>Rose arch</b> – found to be unusable when excavated, so not used.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Treasurer’s report</b> S Gallimore produced an excellent report examining the £5 LAA subscription fee, the costs of insurance and affiliation to NASLG.</p> <p>After some discussion about the paper and the implications contained therein, it was agreed that a motion be put to the AGM proposing an increase of the LAA subscription to £6 p.a. from April 2018, setting a review date. Steve will write the proposal.</p> <p>Tenancies are due to be renewed and reminders will be posted on 15/3/17. C Preece has designed an A5 flyer to be enclosed with the reminders. The design was approved at the meeting. The council needs copies by 13/3/17.</p>	<p>S Gallimore to action</p>
<p><b>Site inspections</b> G Murdoch and J Lacey visited the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hedges have been cut.</li> <li>• R Murdoch offered to be an allotment buddy. No others applied to do this.</li> <li>• P Russell has ordered a hedge pack, which contains 30 whips of mixed hedge including Hawthorn. Rabbit protection will be needed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Site Problems – pest control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J Debbage had quotes from two contractors. She has chosen one and given the current pest control contractor notice.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that a new approach to pest control will be adopted – the boxes will contain dyed food that will colour excrement. The contractor will look for rat faeces and take action accordingly. This method prevents the poisoning of mice that are then consumed by birds.</li> <li>• The contractors will let ploholders know if they need to go onto their plot.</li> </ul> <p><b>Plots and allotment site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is one full plot and half a plot available. It is expected that 4 ¼ plots will be created where the flooded plots were. Since the drainage was put in, these plots have drained.</li> <li>• J Debbage to remove the plastic/rubbish which was dumped in the middle compost bay.</li> <li>• The Police have offered to mark up gardening equipment for ploholders on <b>20<sup>th</sup> May, at 10am</b>. J Debbage will find out what time it finishes.</li> <li>• The allotment boundary fence is dipping in a couple of places. J Debbage will check this and arrange for re-fencing at these areas.</li> <li>• There are chippings from the recent tree pruning on the car park and at the top, near to the hedge. This is free and available to all,</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">J Debbage to action</div>
<p><b>Allotment Awards judges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J Braithwaite gave an update on the selection of judges, in preparation for the allotment awards. Mikko Moran is confirmed as one of the judges. He works part-time at Berrington Hall and is based at The Weir.</li> <li>• Mikko will recruit at least one other fellow gardener (possibly from the Weir) to help with the judging. The previous judge, Frances, passed her paperwork and scoring system to Mikko to provide judging guidance.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens 18/3/17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 people booked so far - a mix of LAA members and others.</li> <li>• V Pearson has arranged a new venue for the fish and chips lunch, as the 'Harry Ramsdens' has now closed down.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Flyer designed by C Preece</b></p> <p>Thanks to C Preece for designing an A5 flyer promoting the allotments. This will be enclosed with the tenancy renewal reminders. It was suggested that a form should be included for LAA subscribers to confirm their contact details.</p>	
<p><b>Plant Fair Preparation for 10/6/17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There won't be a seed swap. Instead, there will be 'Surplus Seed' container. Money can be donated for any seeds taken. C Conlon will provide an index box with index cards or something else appropriate.</li> <li>• There will be controlled activities for children – just two activities on the go at one time. Jill Hearst and Helen Bricknell will be involved in the</li> </ul>	<p>C Conlon to action</p> <p>C Fewlas to coordinate</p>

<p>organisation of such activities. Suggested activities: potato printing, quick seed growth (sunflower), paper butterflies on garden canes, making and painting bunting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Rabbit pictures to be made by the Puddleston Rainbow Brownies.</li> <li>• We will need a 'setting-up' team for the marquee and 3 x tables.</li> <li>• Please provide: Rhubarb, herbs, slices of cake, French Beans, bunches of flowers tied with raffia/ribbon (buckets of water needed for cut flowers).</li> <li>• Pre-price to make it simple and label the plants.</li> <li>• S Gallimore has offered to store the plants overnight in his garden.</li> <li>• To be discussed again at 10<sup>th</sup> May meeting, after AGM.</li> </ul>	
	All to note
<p><b>Composting Project</b></p> <p>A small group met on 12/1/17, to discuss the composting bays. As the Town Council needs somewhere for its green waste, the council has decided that the bays will stay in their current format and be used as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The left-hand end bay is to be kept for the lengthsman to use.</li> <li>• The middle bay is for mixing, which J Debbage will oversee.</li> <li>• The right-hand bay is for the plot-holders to use.</li> <li>• The height of the compost bays will remain the same.</li> <li>• At the end of the season, the compost will be removed from the middle bay for plot holders to help themselves, but it will need sieving first.</li> </ul> <p>It was suggested that the Town Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considers gating the bays</li> <li>• puts up signs e.g. "Green waste only - no plastic/rubbish", and uses pictures/symbols to illustrate 'do's and don'ts'.</li> <li>• consider planting shrubs around the bays to disguise them.</li> <li>• reviews the process in the autumn</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Preparation for the AGM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports from committee members will be required.</li> <li>• The 2018 AGM date needs to be chosen, in advance of the meeting.</li> <li>• C Conlon will prepare the paperwork for distribution (e.g. agenda, committee nominations).</li> </ul>	<p>All to note</p> <p>C Conlon to action</p>
<p><b>Newsletter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be sent out before May and the AGM.</li> <li>• All contributions to the newsletter will be welcomed. Please send them to Gill Murdoch.</li> </ul>	<p>All to note</p>

<p><b>Diary Dates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>18<sup>th</sup> March – Trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens.</b> Departure <b>8.30am</b> from the Fire Station car park in Leominster.</li> <li>• <b>10<sup>th</sup> May – LAA AGM</b>, 7pm - approximately 30 minutes. The regular LAA meeting will start at 7.45pm.</li> <li>• <b>20<sup>th</sup> May</b>, 10am. Gardening equipment – <b>Police marking.</b></li> <li>• <b>2<sup>nd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June - Leominster Festival.</b> Theme “Paint the Town ...”</li> <li>• <b>10<sup>th</sup> June - Family Fun Day</b> including LAA plant and produce stall, on The Grange.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G Murdoch asked for volunteers for The Great British Spring Clean – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 10am – 12pm. Meet in Corn Square.</li> <li>• The NSALG sent a contribution for the hire of the room and refreshments at the Forbury, for the regional meeting held in August 2016.</li> <li>• Signs are required at the allotments to remind dog owners to pick up after their dogs, when they walk them around the allotments.</li> <li>• C Conlon asked J Debbage to check if the Admin e-mail was working</li> <li>• It is hoped that the allotments notice board will be replaced.</li> </ul>	<p>J Debbage to action</p>
<p><b>The next meeting is on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b></p> <p>The AGM, 7pm - approximately 30 minutes. The regular LAA meeting will start at 7.45pm.</p> <p><b>To be held at the Town Council offices, Leominster. Expect that the Town Council offices will have been moved to Corn Square by this date.</b></p> <p>Please bring your copy of the minutes with you to the meeting – thank you.</p>	<p>All to note</p>

**Agenda**

- Approval of minutes
- Correspondence
- Matters arising from the last minutes (unless the item is already on the agenda)
- Site inspections, plots and site problems
- Plant and Produce Stall preparation for June 10th
- Leominster Allotment Association membership renewals
- Newsletter
- Diary dates
- Any other business
- Date and venue of next meeting then close of meeting