

Leominster Allotment Association meeting

Wednesday 6th September 2017, 7.00pm in the Town Council Offices, Corn Square, Leominster.

Committee members present: Gill Murdoch (Chair), Steve Gallimore, J Lacey.

Others present: J Debbage, R Wall. **Apologies:** J Braithwaite, Viv Pearson, Ian Wilkins.

Minutes: Christine Conlon.

<p>Minutes from previous meeting, 5/7/17 – approved.</p>	
<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of produce - An Allotment Association member reported that produce had been taken from some allotments. J Debbage has investigated and this may have happened because of a misunderstanding of the phrase “help yourself”. Police advise that if anything is taken without permission, it is theft and not a trivial matter. Gill Murdoch will include this information in the newsletter. • Froglife – Julie Debbage has received a letter from Kathy Wormald, Chief Executive Officer of Froglife (a toad/frog-focussed project). A wildlife-gardening workshop is offered to allotment-holders. Julie is to reply saying that the LAA is interested. • Interest in our compost bins – Mel Watkins, Chair of Hereford’s 400 allotments, contacted Julie as he is interested in learning about our compost bins. It will be suggested that he visits Bisley Allotments composting site. 	<p>Gill to action</p> <p>Julie to action</p> <p>Julie to action</p>
<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotment judging – Rhian Pugh, the judge, has now assessed the plots. The trophies are back with the Town Council and the room at the Grange is now booked. • Tree bog – This has been serviced, the steps secured and a handrail added. 	
<p>Barbecue</p> <p>This was cancelled due to low interest. Next year, committee members will put their names on the list first, to encourage others to add their names.</p>	
<p>Handbook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members have checked the first 10 pages of the handbook. Gill has noted the suggested amendments. • If there’s an electronic copy of the handbook, changes can be made easily, but if not, Christine offered to re-type it, incorporating changes so that an updated version can be put onto the website. Jane will find out if there is an electronic copy. • Committee members are to check the next 10 pages in time for the next meeting. 	<p>Jane to action</p> <p>All to action</p>
<p>Site inspections, plots and site problems</p> <p>The plots were inspected by Gill, Jane and Julie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie needs full contact details for one plot holder who has chickens on site. The owners need to be aware that Ray will be turning off the water for the winter. • The gate is being locked more often, but Julie discovered it open one morning. • Plottolders should be encouraged to keep a water butt on their plots, in case the water unexpectedly gets turned off. • The larger gates are to be closed to vehicles after the October half term to prevent the track ways being damaged in the winter. Gill will add this to the newsletter. • Two piles of woodchip have been put in the car park area for plot-holders to use. 	<p>Julie to action</p>

<p>At the present time, no-one knows who has donated them.</p>	
<p>Compost bins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contents of the compost bins have been checked, revealing that some plotholders have continued to put the wrong things in the bins. • The bins are now officially closed until further notice. During the closure, Julie will take the top two levels off as it is too high. A height of 4ft is best. 	<p>Julie will action</p>
<p>The aims of fund-raising We will have specifically focussed fund-raising, should it be required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banner – We are fund-raising for a banner to promote the LAA. Jane suggested that the National Society of Allotments will contribute if the NSA logo is added. • Raffle – There will be a raffle at the Harvest Supper and Awards evening. Please donate prizes for the evening. 	<p>All to note</p>
<p>Social events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is to be a coach trip to the National Botanic Garden of Wales on Saturday 14th October. Other ideas for trips / destinations are still needed. <p>Harvest Supper and Awards evening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with even-numbered allotments – bring the savouries. • People with odd-numbered allotments – bring the desserts. • Christine to bring a picture quiz. • Flowers are required for the tables (Cathy and Jane) • Gill will put a notice on the Notice Board 	<p>Gill to action</p>
<p>Diary Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest Supper and Awards Evening – Friday 6th October, Grange Court, 7pm. • Police marking at the allotments – Saturday 7th October, 2-4pm. Bring garden equipment, also bicycles, laptops and anything valuable to be marked. Ray will put up the gazebo. • Trip to National Botanic Garden of Wales – Saturday 14th October. 	<p>Ray to action</p>
<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cube – A better lock is needed for the door of the cube. • Soil conditioner – it's possible that we may be able to get some soil conditioner for the allotments if we can get it collected by a truck. Julie offered to do this. • Plot numbering – Some of the plots are still not clearly numbered and this is urgently needed in case of emergency. The Town Council staff are still deciding about re-numbering the plots. • Kings Seeds catalogues – John Braithwaite has deposited the catalogues in the Town Council Offices and they will be available for plot-holders from the Town Council Offices, between 9.00 -13.00 Monday – Friday. • Allotment magazines – Gill distributed them at the meeting. 	<p>Julie to action</p>

<p>The next meeting is on Wednesday 1st November 2017, 7pm, Town Council offices, Leominster.</p>	
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Please print off and bring a copy of the minutes with you to the next meeting.

Agenda for meeting, 1/11/17

- Approval of minutes
- Correspondence
- Matters arising from the last minutes (unless the item is already on the agenda)
- Harvest Supper and Awards evening report
- Trip to National Botanic Garden of Wales report
- Review of Handbook
- Site inspections, plots and site problems
- Treasurer's Report
- Compost bins
- Diary dates
- Any other business
- Date and venue of next meeting then close of meeting