

**Leominster Allotment Association meeting**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 7.00pm in the Town Council Offices, Corn Square, Leominster.

**Committee members present:** I Wilkins (acting Chair), B Hirschmann **Minutes:** Christine Conlon.

**Others present:** D Arkell, J Debbage, C & D Sanders, S & R Shakespeare, R Wall, K West,

**Apologies:** J Braithwaite, J Lacey, E Meek, Gill Murdoch

	<b>Actions</b>
<p><b>Minutes from previous meeting, 2/1/2019</b> – Plant Fair date/venue incorrectly reported. Correction is that the Plant Fair will be held in Corn Square on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June. The minutes were then approved.</p> <p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>1. Email reply to Christine from Sarah Blenkinsop AKA Compostwoman, who would be willing to do another composting workshop at the allotments. Charge of £50 (plus 45p per mile travelling). If interested, let her know.</p> <p>2. Email reply to Christine from Kate Gathercole (Herefordshire Green Network), willing to do 'Make do and Mend' event, possibly available in summer. She could tailor the event to include our composting needs. If interested, let her know.</p> <p>3. Email to Gill from Jeremy Williams, worm farmer/composter. Does demos of turning waste into compost. Charge involved. If interested, let him know.</p> <p>4. Email to Gill from Viv Pearson (organiser of previous LAA trips). Birmingham Botanical Gardens offering time-limited price of £2.50 pp. If interested, let Viv know.</p>	
<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gate lock</b> – Julie has provided a spare lock in case the current one is damaged.</li> <li>• <b>Kings Seeds</b> – John resolved recent queries regarding delivery of items purchased by members.</li> <li>• <b>Police marking</b> – no date arranged yet, but it could be in April. TBA.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Julie Debbage leaving</b></p> <p>Julie announced that she will be leaving to move to another job on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Julie has been the town's Environmental Services Supervisor since 2016 and in this role, she has given great support to the Leominster Allotment Association. By attending the LAA meetings she has increased communication between the town council and the LAA/plot holders.</p> <p>Ian, on behalf of the Leominster Allotment Association, and in Gill's absence, presented her with a large bouquet of flowers, thanking her for what she has done for us all, adding that she would be missed.</p>	
<p><b>Seed Swap report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gill, Christine, Elena and Dawn Arkell attended. People were interested in the allotments and the LAA was publicised. The Seeds were moved on to Ludlow. From there, moved on to Malvern.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Site inspections, plots and site problems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dogs on site</b> – A loose dog was noticed on site. Dogs are only allowed on site if they are on leash until they reach their owners' allotment. This is part of the tenancy agreement with the land owners. A sign is needed to state that dogs</li> </ul>	

<p>need to be on leashes, also for owners to clear up any dog mess. A reminder will go out with the tenancy renewals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Empty plot</b> – There is just one empty plot, a half plot for £50 per year.</li> <li>• <b>Plot inspections</b> - When Julie leaves, Jane and Gill will check the plots. The plots are inspected by the 5<sup>th</sup> working day of the month.</li> <li>• <b>Compost available</b> – The digger will be clearing the compost bays w/c 11/3/19. Compost from the bottom of the bays will be made available to all ploholders.</li> <li>• <b>Grass cut</b> – the last cut of the grass has been made.</li> <li>• <b>Water leak</b> – the water leak from the Buckfield Estate is flowing again. Julie has reported and is getting it investigated.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>LAA membership fee of £7.50 and allotment rental combination</b> Julie will take the matter to the next Town Council meeting.</p>	Julie to action
<p><b>Leominster in Bloom/It's Your Neighbourhood (LIB/IYN)</b> The LAA will not be involved in registering for the 2019 LIB/IYN, but might apply for the 2020 LIB/IYN. There might be an 'Open Gardens - in Town' event in June 2020 and this is where the Leominster Allotments could get involved, by also having an Open Day at the allotments.</p>	
<p><b>New committee members needed</b> This has been advertised on our website in the past. It's currently advertised permanently there, as well as being a 'news' item. Expressions of interest will be called for when the AGM documentation is sent out to all LAA members.</p>	
<p><b>Diary dates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LAA AGM – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 7pm</b>, Town Council offices.</li> <li>• <b>LAA ordinary meeting - at approximately 7:45pm, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>, Town Council offices.</li> <li>• <b>Bring and Share Picnic/barbecue</b> - Planned for <b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Bench Christening - Outside of the Community shed</b>. Invite various people, including the tree pruner. Date to be arranged.</li> <li>• <b>Community Market stalls - Corn Square on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>. Community/Charity stall market in. The LAA won't be attending with a stall.</li> <li>• <b>Plant Fair – Corn Square Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b>. Part of Leominster in Bloom.</li> <li>• <b>Police marking</b> – yet to be arranged.</li> <li>• <b>Harvest Supper – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, Grange Court, 7pm</b>.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Memorial bench</b> – This is now ready, after Ray Wall cemented it to the ground, next to the Community Shed. Jane/Cathy are arranging a plaque to be engraved with John Moss's name. Invite John's widow. Provide ribbon for cutting.</li> <li>• <b>Holes in lane surface</b> – Ray reported the holes are just below the allotment gate and suggested using 6 x kerb stones to stop cars going further into the holes.</li> <li>• <b>Moles</b> – Ray reported moles at the allotments. Pest control possibly needed.</li> <li>• <b>Puddleston Gardeners</b> – have requested to visit the allotments. Gill is willing to take them around in July / August.</li> </ul>	<p>Jane / Cathy to action</p> <p>Gill to action</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mentoring Scheme</b> – a new plotholder wants to find out about the mentoring scheme. Dawn Arkell has offered to meet the person and find out their needs. If there is a problem with allotment upkeep, due to, say, hospital stay, medical reason, plotholders need to communicate with the Town Council to about it.</li><li>• <b>Facebook</b> – it was suggested that plotholders communicate through a Q &amp; A section of the LAA Facebook page. Currently there is just one page for this.</li><li>• <b>Money for Petrol</b> – Ray has been mowing the grass without payment. The Town Council should pay him for this. Julie will enquire.</li><li>• <b>Communication at meetings</b> – Bridget requested that the committee be more inclusive when other members are present at meetings.</li><li>• <b>View from Ginhall Lane /Linear Park</b> – Feedback reported by Julie about how nice the allotments look from Ginhall Lane / Linear Park.</li><li>• <b>Judging</b> – Julie has kindly offered to be an allotment judge.</li><li>• <b>Allotment magazines</b> – Ian gave out the magazines at the end of the meeting. Please circulate magazines when read.</li></ul>	<p>Dawn to action</p> <p>Julie to action</p>
<p><b>The next meeting will be the AGM, on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 7pm, Town Council offices, Leominster. The next ordinary meeting will be held immediately after that meeting, at approximately 7.45pm. Please print off and bring a copy of the minutes with you to the next meeting.</b></p>	

#### **Agenda for meeting, 01/05/2019**

- Approval of minutes
- Correspondence
- Matters arising from the last minutes
- Site inspections, plots and site problems
- Diary dates
- Any other business
- Date and venue of next meeting then close of meeting