

LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

At The Grape Vaults, Leominster

On Thursday 31st January 2008

Present: Roger Hunt (Councillor), Mark Langford, Eric Vernon, David Russell (Deputy Town Clerk), Fanny Howden, Denise Kerwood (Chair), Diane Boone, David Lovegrove, John Tromans, Vivienne Pearson.

1. Roger Hunt – Roger Hunt said that he wanted the allotment owners to be happy about the prospect of allowing dogs on the allotments. The majority of allotment tenants supported the idea with just two objections. The project was discussed between members and it was agreed that we would put forward the recommendation that dogs could be allowed on to the allotments provided they were contained in either fenced in plots or were on a lead. Eric proposed this and John seconded it. The vote was a unanimous affirmation of the proposal. Roger Hunt said he would put this recommendation to the Council. Eric Vernon agreed to monitor the dogs.

Denise asked Roger Hunt why we were not allowed to sell produce for profit as she thought it would be a good method of promoting the allotments and the concept of growing one's own vegetables especially on the Farmers Markets. Roger Hunt said that at first when allotments were being allocated several shopkeepers were worried that it would affect their trade.

David Russell expressed the concern that people may take a plot with the intention of growing commercially.

Roger Hunt also said he would ask Monty Don if he would visit the allotments during 2008.

2. Apologies- Liz Lovegrove.
3. Minutes of the last meeting
These were read by the members and approved.
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes
Denise said that notices provided by the police had been put in sheds. She said that as far as she knew there had been no further incidents. After discussion it was agreed that notices should be put on both gates to say the whole area was being made secure.
5. Future Events
Fanny proposed the following visits for 2008

Visit local garden – Bryan's Ground with tea afterwards
Hampton Court where there was a possibility of a tour

Day trip to Organic Garden Coventry (various events)
Midsummer Barbecue
Harvest Supper
Sunflower Day – she proposed the Committee gave everyone sunflower seeds and on the Day judged the best.
Open Day with possibly Ludlow and Hereford Allotments.

At this point members asked if there would be a skip at the allotments this year. David Russell replied that he hoped to have 2 a year one in late April and one in October.

6. Membership

SEE ERIC RE COSTS OF NAT. Allot. Soc.
WILL COSTS BE TAKEN OUT OF SUBS.
OR INDIVIDUAL
TO PAY.
This needs to increase and Fanny asked what were the advantages of becoming a member of the above Association? David Russell said that members could get 10% off goods at Hintons and various other local businesses gave incentives. It was decided that we should provide a membership card which could be shown at these shops. Also members would be given a reduced rate for arranged visits. Eric said that with two new members joining there would be enough members for us to join the National Allotment Association and he would proceed with this.

David Russell to include benefits of membership in the next Newsletter.

7. Treasurer

John Tromans kindly agreed to be our new Treasurer.

8. Any Other Business

Vivienne mentioned that when the contractors mowed the paths they didn't trim the edges. David Russell will question them concerning this.
Roger Hunt said that the judging of the allotments would take place during the whole of July when most plots have their greatest amounts of produce.
David Russell mentioned that we are now on our 8th lock on the main gate and said the last one had been welded to the chain to stop it from being stolen.
Fanny appealed for a table or similar to put spare plants on for others to have.
David Russell asked for material for the next Newsletter within the next two weeks.

9. Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 27th March at The Grape Vaults at 7pm.

MAY 29TH CHEQUERS 7-00PM.

LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting at The Chequers Inn, Etnam Street on 27th March 2008 at 7pm

Present: Christina Bromage – Town Clerk, David Russell, Deputy Town Clerk, Denise Kerwood – Chair, Gareth Maddox CSO, Fanny Howden – Programme Secretary, John Tromans – Treasurer, Diane Boone – Secretary, Mark Langford, Phil Emes, Vivienne Pearson

1. Apologies – David Lovegrove, Eric Vernon
2. Minutes of last meeting – approved and signed
3. Gareth Maddox, Community Support Officer – explained how Smart Water is used to mark objects and can only be detected with an ultraviolet light. He said it would be postcoded to a certain area and was non-poisonous. At present the police were prepared to offer it at a special price of £20. Denise said the police had made regular visits to the allotments.
4. Matters arising – **Dogs** As all allotment members originally signed the documents saying dogs were not allowed on the land the Council felt the need to seek legal advice on this point and would let us know the outcome. Denise asked if a representative of the allotment holders could attend the next Council working party. Christine Bromage and David Russell agreed to this. **Selling Produce for Profit** – Christine said it was forbidden in the Allotment Act. **Table for produce-** Diane said she had a door which could be used for this purpose if some supports could be found. Denise to sort out. Vivienne asked what was the outcome of asking the contractors **strimming** the paths to cut closer to the allotments but Christine said they were not allowed to do this in case of damage. Fanny asked if anyone would be willing to help with designing a **banner** for the Britain in Bloom competition in Leominster. Romey Worthington who owns the Best Wishes card shop in Leominster asked if the committee would be willing to let the judges of the Britain in Bloom competition visit the allotments and this was agreed. David Russell said a **skip** had been ordered for 6th April for one week. He mentioned that he had to tell everyone that **hosepipes** were not to be used to fill water butts. Fanny mentioned that Hintons were giving 5% not 10% **discount** and that she was contacting Countrywide Nursery at Wellington to get discount. They would require a list of members and suggested a **membership card** be issued. Eric is working on this. John Tromans requested a **list of members** and possible members so that he can liaise with Eric over affiliation with the National Allotment Association. Denise asked Fanny how the programme for visits was getting on. Fanny replied that she was organising a visit to Stocktonbury Gardens in Kimbolton for Saturday 10th May and suggested we all meet there at 2.30pm. There was also an Open Day planned for 5th July when Ludlow Organic Allotments and Church Stretton Allotment members would visit us.

5. Soil Improver – Denise said it had been suggested that a group of allotment holders get together to purchase soil improver from the Council. It was also suggested that we could have a skip for green waste only as the ones we have at present go into landfill sites. Denise to phone waste management section at Hereford Council to look into this. It was also noted that there was a notice on the board to say free horse manure was available for collection.
6. Subscriptions - John to speak to Eric regarding this and affiliation.
7. Any Other Business – Fanny said we needed to buy sunflower seeds for the allotment competition. Denise to see to this.
8. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 29th May 2008 at The Chequers Inn.

LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING
At The Chequers Inn, Leominster on Thursday 29th May 2008 at 7pm

Present: C Bromage (Town Clerk), D Russell (Deputy Town Clerk) D Kerwood (Chair) J Tromans (Treasurer) M Langford, B Holland, L Lovegrove, D Boone (Secretary)

- 1. **Apologies** – E Vernon, F Howden, D Lovegrove ✓
- 2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** – The minutes of the last meeting were approved ✓ and signed by D Kerwood.
- 3. **Matters Arising** – i) Dogs – C Bromage said they had not yet received advice on this. ✓
 ii) Table for produce – this has been up and running well
 iii) Banner for allotment – F Howden has this in hand and it is nearly completed.
 iv) Skip – This was used and has now gone
 v) Hose pipes – C Bromage reminded everyone that no hosepipes were to be used at the site. (Not even for filling water butts)
 vi) Outings – D Kerwood said that they had had a very successful trip to Stocktonbury Gardens.

- 4. **Plot Issues** – C Bromage said that Mr Ray Preece (Plot 41a) is ill at present and asked if some of the committee could keep his plot tidy until he has improved.

It was also mentioned that the wife of the holder of Plot 23a is pregnant and not having good health so his plot has got overgrown. It was requested that we keep an eye on this plot also. D Russell said he was trying to contact the contractor who mows the paths to see if he could trim these two plots.

- 5. **Water Troughs** - D Russell said he had 2 quotes for this job and proposed a tank to be placed near the gate leading from Ginhall Lane. He needs to get final approval before going ahead.
- 6. **Subscriptions** - J Tromans asked D Russell if he could include a notice regarding membership in the next Newsletter. During the evening subscriptions were received from 3 people.
- 7. **Future Events** – D Kerwood reminded everyone that the Barbecue would be held on Sat 21st June at 2.30pm. There would also be an Open Day for allotment holders from Ludlow and Church Stretton on Sat 5th July at 2.30pm and urged as many people as possible to be there to welcome them.

D Kerwood also said that there was a film to be shown at the Community Centre on 19th June with the subject of growing plants in Cuba.

- 8. **Any Other Issues** – D Kerwood asked if there could be a mention of care with weed killers in the next Newsletter.

J Tromans asked D Russell if the hedge could be trimmed near his plot as it was difficult driving the car around the end of the field and it had resulted in his car getting scratched. D Russell said it was in hand.

M Langford showed the members a sample of Smart Water he had purchased.

9. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 31st July and this will be the AGM.

LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AT LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

On Thursday 31st July 2008 at 7pm

Present C. Bromage – Town Clerk, D Russell – Deputy Town Clerk
M Tansley, M Langford, F. Vernon, J Tromans, D Kerwood, D Boone
Tony Cooper – Guest Speaker

Apologies – David and Liz Lovegrove, Fanny Howden, P Ems

Minutes of Last Meeting – Agreed and signed by D Kerwood

Matters Arising 1) Dogs are to be permitted on the allotment site from 4th August 2008 for a trial period. Eric Vernon to monitor this.

2) John Tromans said he had spoken to most of the allotment holders in order to get more members of the association but most were reluctant to join. The total number stood at ~~12~~ at present. M Tansley then joined so the total was then ~~13~~.
9 10

John also said he thought we should now hold another meeting to decide on the future of the association. Denise said we should promote ourselves at the awards evening in November.

Election of Officers – All the present Committee agreed to stand for another year. Mark Langford joined the committee. Proposed - D Boone, seconded - D Kerwood.

Treasurer's Report – John said that there was £113.60 in the bank and he had £10 in cash, making a total of £123.60.

Programme Secretary's Report – Fanny said we had a successful outing to Stocktonbury Gardens and the weather was great. Unfortunately the Barbecue had to be called off due to bad weather. However on 5th July we had visitors from Ludlow, Church Stretton and Bromyard allotments and the afternoon proved a great success despite the heavy rain. Ludlow allotment holders have invited us back to visit them on 24th August.

On 7th September the Sunflower Judging Competition will be held and tea and cakes will be available. It was decided to award the prize to the tallest sunflower whether or not it is in bloom.

A trip to Machynlleth Alternative Technology Centre is being arranged as a joint venture with other parties – date to be decided.

The Harvest Supper is to be held on 17th October at The Granary, South Street. Fanny also thought it would be a good idea to have a gathering near the end of the year with Christmas fare (but not in the open this year!).

Tony Cooper – Talk on Garden Share Scheme – Tony introduced himself as the Project manager for Age Concern. He said his scheme was available for the over 50's and the disabled. It's aim was to encourage fitness and good diets in this age group. He thought the allotments, as they were primarily for growing vegetables, would be a suitable project. The idea was for volunteers to help people who could no longer cope with their garden or plot. They would do the heavy work and learn as they went along so it was a two way scheme. The idea being that we would initiate a circle to do this work. Denise said she had put a poster giving details on the notice board. Christina also suggested that Tony contact the housing associations and another group was suggested as they Youth Group in Leominster. Tony said he would like to be at the initial meeting of the circle. Denise thanked him for attending the meeting and talking to us.

Any Other Issues – Diane said that the water tank by plot 29 was overflowing again. David Russell said he would attend to this matter.

Denise said she wanted to thank everyone who had helped during the past year ie Fanny, Eric, John and Diane and especially Heather, Liz and Fanny for sewing the lovely banner. She said also that Liz Lovegrove had painted a picture of an allotment scene this had been reproduced on postcards which were available at 50p each. One of these postcards had been sent to Monty Don wishing him a speedy recovery. Denise also wanted to thank Mrs Emes who had made a banner to put on the gate for the Leominster in Bloom. She also wanted to thank David Russell who had to hear about everyone's problems while tending his allotment and for Christina helping in so many ways. A thank you also was due to Mr Fisher who made such a good job of cutting the grass.

David Russell said plans for the extension of the allotments in the adjoining field was in place and would be about the same size as the present area. The legal procedures had started and the field would be ploughed in October so would be ready for planting next Spring. The present fence would still be kept in place with one access. It was envisaged that this would provide around 40 further plots. David also asked the committee if, providing there was a surplus next year, we would be prepared to give it to the Priory to be sold to raise funds. Everyone agreed.

Denise suggested that we ask Ryan from the Flower Pot People to our next meeting – all agreed.

John Tromans asked Christina about an article that had appeared in the Leominster Town Newsletter. It mentioned that the expenditure for the allotments was £1370 for the year. John wanted to know if this was over and above the rents from the allotment holders. Christina said it was as they had to pay for water, grass cutting and skips.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 30th October 2008 at the Leominster Town Offices.

Denise suggested that we hold an extraordinary meeting before October to discuss the future of the association. This was decided to be Thursday 28th August and would be held at The Chequers Inn.

John

LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting at Leominster Town Council Offices, West Street

On Thursday 30th October 2008 at 7pm

Present: Christina Bromage (Town Clerk), David Russell (Deputy Town Clerk)
Denise Kerwood, (Chair) Fanny Howden (Programme Organiser), Eric Vernon and
Diane Boone (Secretary).

1. Apologies - Mark Langford and John Tromans

2. Minutes of the last meeting – These were approved and duly signed by Denise Kerwood.

- 3. Matters Arising** – i) Dogs – there seemed to be no problems so far with dogs on the allotment site
- ii) Awards Evening – Denise said she hoped to recruit further members at the coming awards evening and Fanny suggested we put some hand-outs on tables to this effect. David asked Denise if she would speak then and she agreed. It was also suggested that we produce computer generated posters for events and we should ask anyone if they would like to take this on.
- iii) The Harvest Supper was held at The Granary on 10th October – This had proved a great success with 20 (?) people attending and included a quiz.
- iv) Rules - Diane said we had set up a list of rules of the Association at an extraordinary meeting and handed out copies.

- 4. Future Events** – i) Eric asked for any spare flower pots as he intended to build a flower pot man in the present car park. Several people said they would give him their pots.
- ii) Fanny said she had written to Highgrove as a possible place to visit and was waiting to hear from them.
- iii) Fanny had invited Monty Don to return to the allotments to see how they had progressed. She also sent him a message wishing him well after his recent illness.
- iv) There is to be a Food Swap at Presteigne Memorial Hall on Saturday 1st November at 11am.

5. Promotion - Denise suggested we ask Mark Langford to organise speakers to talk to us on gardening related matters. She also said it would be a good idea to get an itinerary typed up to go out with the Newsletter

6. Christmas Tree – We have been asked by the Priory together with other organisations to provide and place a Christmas Tree in the church during December. They needed to know by 8th November. Fanny said she had a suitable tree in a pot which she would be happy to lend for the occasion. We should ask for a suitable theme for decoration at the coming awards evening.

7. Any Other Business – i) Hedges – Denise asked Christina and David if trees could be planted on the north fence of the site of the new allotments and thought a grant

might be available for this. David said he would need to look at the plans and have a word with Mr Caldicott at the awards evening. David showed everyone the plans for the new area.

ii) Community Space – Fanny asked if it would be possible to have some flower beds around the community area.

iii) In view of the recent thefts of vegetables from the plots it was suggested that the gate in Ginhall Lane be highered. David said that two people with plots near there were going to put some metal on top of the gate to stop people climbing over.

iv) Dwarf trees – Denise and Fanny asked if shallow rooted trees which had a short life span could be planted on the allotments but Christina said it was not allowed.

v) Seed Catalogue – Diane said the seeds had been ordered from Kings and that as an association and for an early order we had gained a discount of £9.36.

vi) The photos of the Leominster In Bloom banners were shown to the members.

vii) David mentioned that he is composing a 'Handbook for Tenants' which will be given to all allotment holders.

8. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 29th January 2009.