

# LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

## AT TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, LEOMINSTER

On THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> FEB 2009 at 7pm

**Present:** D Russell (Deputy Town Clerk), D Kerwood, J Tromans, M Langford, S Fletcher, M Tansley, F Howden, D Boone

**Apologies** – Liz and David Lovegrove, E Vernon

**Minutes of last meeting** – These were approved and signed by D Kerwood.

### **Matters Arising**

- i) Two new members had joined at the Awards evening
- ii) The Harvest Supper held at The Granary in October 2008 had been a success but it was thought that in view of the fact that there may be more people next time a larger venue should be investigated. David Russell suggested using the Norman Nave of the Priory Church and we could do our own catering.
- iii) Denise told Mark Langford that it had been suggested that he organise the speakers in future. He said he was prepared to do this but would wait to see the response to the event organised for February 4<sup>th</sup> before booking further speakers.
- iv) The Christmas tree in the Priory last December had been a great success also. It was now to be an annual event.
- v) David Russell said that the Community Area envisaged on the new allotment site would now have to be changed as the access to the site had altered. He showed the members the new plans. He said the Herefordshire Council Planning Department were not happy with the new entrance as proposed in the Figure of Eight Cattery Lane due to limited vision on exiting the site and all new allotment holders would have to use the existing entrance.
- vi) Eric Vernon is collecting flower pots for the figure to be erected at the entrance to the site. Steve Fletcher said he may be able to help.
- vii) David Russell said the new area for allotments had not yet been ploughed but they were waiting for the contractor. He also said that at the opening of the new site children from Leominster Junior School had been invited to take part.

### **Discussions – Recycling Waste from Allotments**

As it was felt that the waste from these allotments should not go to landfill sites David Russell said we had two choices. Either get it taken to a green site or not have a skip at all. Steve Fletcher from Greenfingers outlined a suggestion that his organisation could collect the waste on a regular basis and suggested that a container be set up for this purpose. He said, however, that they would not want to collect blighted material or anything that would not compost. They had however a 'chipper' so could take more woody material. It was agreed that this should be tried for one year.

### **Fruit Trees**

Denise asked if there was any possibility of growing dwarf rooted fruit trees or espaliers. David Russell said that it was in the contract with the Lessor's Solicitors that no fruit trees were to be grown. Therefore it was a legal document. He said he would investigate further and this issue will be resolved at a later date.

### **Future Events**

- i) David mentioned that the Open Gardens were to be held this year on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June and asked if we would like to be included. Fanny suggested we include the allotment holders from Ludlow, Bromyard and Church Stretton and provide teas etc. She also asked if we could have the banner which was made for the Leominster in Bloom event last year and said she would look into this.
- ii) A Midsummers Day event with a bonfire was also being planned. Alex Fox from Lawton Herbs would be contacted by Fanny. A day could be arranged in the summer where members could visit Lawton Herbs with a tea afterward.
- iii) Fanny had not heard yet from Highgrove.
- iv) The Tallest Sunflower competition would be held again this year together with a Mammoth Vegetable contest.
- v) The Harvest Supper will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and the suggestion of the Priory Church was approved by Committee.

### **Any Other Business**

- i) Denise asked again about the possibility of the members planting a native hedge along the fence to the north of the new site. Mark Tansley said he would ask the Scouts to plant the saplings. Steve Fletcher said he would obtain the trees. Fanny said it may be possible to obtain a grant towards this but we would still need to raise funds. She asked if everyone would donate prizes for the raffles.
- ii) David said Trish Marsh was holding an event on St Valentine's Day (Feb 14<sup>th</sup>) in Corn Square, Leominster and had requested any unwanted vegetables to be donated to this event.
- iii) David said there was to be a Community Day in Leominster on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and all organisations would be asked to take part. The question of Public Liability Insurance was raised. David said he would look into this and let us know. He also raised the question of whether we could sell vegetables at the Community Day and put the money towards expenses for improvements to the site.
- iv) Denise then distributed leaflets on the compost toilets for the members to look at. Fanny said if we went ahead with the toilets, the saplings for the hedge and netting to keep out rabbits we would need to raise money. The question of Charitable Status was also raised and Fanny said she would look into this.
- v) Age Concern give some help to people at the allotments and could provide a secure metal shed.
- vi) John Tromans said that £21 had been raised from the sale of Liz's postcards and this would be donated to the Gina shed fund. The meeting ended at 8.30pm

Date of Next Meeting 2nd April 2009.

Balance at  
4<sup>th</sup> June £225.96

LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

Any of the committee  
have expenses for this year please let  
me have  
detail S.A.P.

Handout  
envelopes

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 at 7pm

At Leominster Town Council Offices, West Street

application  
forms  
now  
available

**Present:** David Russell – Deputy Town Clerk, Denise Kerwood – Chair, Eric Vernon, Geoff Brooks, Mark Langford, Mark Tansley, Vivienne Pearson, David Lovegrove, Coral Lemm and Diane Boone – Secretary

**Apologies:** Fanny Howden, John Tromans, Naomi Andersson, S Gallimore, Christine Bromage, Liz Lovegrove.

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** These were approved and duly signed by Denise Kerwood.

#### **Matters Arising:**

Mark Langford asked what the position was with the native tree saplings which were to be planted along the north hedge. Denise replied that she was seeking a grant for this. Approximately 360 trees would be needed to cover the 90 metres of hedge and would cost in the region of £800 including weed proof matting. David Lovegrove said he would investigate the possibility of the Forestry Commission giving a grant for this.

The Community Area is by the gate in Figure of Eight Cattery Lane. David Russell said some of the area has been ploughed. Denise said it would be a good chance to plant a wildflower area there.

Eric said he had collected some flower pots for the figure to be erected in the entrance but still needed some more.

Eric asked where the container for the green waste was to be sited. David Russell said one could be put on the grass strip near the toilet in the existing car park and another in the new car park.

The question of whether to move the toilet to the new car park was discussed and it was decided to leave it at its present site and review the situation later.

#### **Future Events**

These would be printed in the next Newsletter due to come out in April and Denise would put events on the Notice Board. She said she had booked Kim Hurst, from The Cottage Herbery at Tenbury Wells to speak to the group on Tuesday 16th June at 7pm. As it was thought that the Town Council Offices might be too small to accommodate the members on that night Mark Tansley suggested that we might book the Scout Hall, Pinsley Road. Mark to organise this.

### **Any Other Business**

David Russell said the new allotments would be open for plot holders from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April but that there would be an official opening at a later date.

Naomi Andersson said that a friend of hers has a large amount of topsoil to be delivered to the site and asked (via the Secretary) where they should deposit it. David Russell said to tip it in the South West corner of the site near to Ginhall Lane.

John Tromans asked (via the Secretary) if the £2 subscription for the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd should be taken from the £5 subscription to the above association. This was discussed and it was decided that it would be taken from the LAA subscriptions this year but we would increase the LAA subscription from April 2010 to £7.50 to cover this next year.

David Russell said in view of the increased number of plot holders it would not be possible to hold the Awards Evening in the Town Council Offices this year and suggested that we hold it in the Priory Church. He said also that the Harvest Supper could be held there. This was agreed.

Denise said she intended to send information regarding the LAA to all new plot holders.

Several people asked why the metal container for tools for Age Concern was so large and that it took up a large part of the car park so that turning cars with trailers was not easy. David Russell said that he would ask Age Concern why they needed such a large container.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

This was to be Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at the Town Council Offices, West Street at 7pm.

## LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

### MEETING AT TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009 AT 7pm

**Present:** D Russell – Deputy Town Clerk, D Kerwood – Chair, J Tromans – Treasurer, M Langford, F Howden – Programme Secretary, D Boone - Secretary, D Lovegrove, C Lemm, C Fewlass, J Lacey, S Waldegrave, J Miller, Mr & Mrs Milner, L Hyett, W J Moss, Canon J Ayling, Y Ayling, L Marsh, J Marsh, N Hilton, C Foster, L Welthy, V Pearson.

**Apologies:** Liz Lovegrove, E Vernon, Jane and Steve Gallimore

**Minutes of last meeting:** These were approved and signed by D Kerwood.

**Talk on 'Tree Bogs'** - Martin Smith representing Wye Woods Project explained the benefits of having a compost toilet as opposed to a chemical one. He said it would be constructed of wood in traditional style and would cost in the region of £1000 as opposed to the annual cost of a chemical one at £1800. Sawdust would be used causing no odour and this should degrade naturally. Double toilets were available and disabled access could be arranged. Plans for this would have to be submitted to the Council in the first instance.

**Matters Arising** – Denise said that the fact that everyone should be protected from tetanus by injection was omitted from the Newsletter.

She reminded everyone that Eric is still collecting flower pots for his 'Flower Pot Man'

The container for waste was in situ and would be collected on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Denise reminded everyone that it was for green waste only and not to put any diseased material in.

#### **Future Events –**

- a) Open Gardens – 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> June and the Official Opening of the new allotments would take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm The Mayor would cut the ribbon and some of the Leominster Junior School children were going to sing. Tea and cakes would be for sale. Denise asked for anyone to supply cakes, plants and prizes for the raffle. Mr Moss to provide a marquee.
- b) There would be a talk by Kim Hurst at the Scout Hut, Pinsley Road at 7pm on 16<sup>th</sup> June.
- c) There was to be a Midsummer barbecue on Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm. Denise asked if anyone who had a barbecue could bring it along
- d) The trip to Lawton Herbs, postponed from Sun 17<sup>th</sup> May was now to be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm. Cost £2.50 including tea and cakes.

**Correspondence** – Denise read the letter she had sent to Mr Caldicott asking if he would consider dwarf fruit trees to be permitted on the site. He replied that he had no objection but that it was a matter for the council. David Russell said Mr Caldicott

would have to get a solicitor to change the terms of the lease in the first instance and that Denise would have to apply to the council in writing.

**Site Development** – Denise said the amenity site in the south west corner was the place for staging events and that it would be nice if we could plant wild flowers on the bank.

**Leominster in Bloom** – No comments on this

**Any Other Business** – The question of whether it would be possible to have a load of manure available free to allotment holders was discussed but Denise pointed out that in the past some manure had been contaminated. Leaf mould was available from Steve Fletcher if required.

John Tromans issued receipts for membership and asked for any expenses claims as soon as possible.

One person mentioned that Kim Hurst from Tenbury had her garden open to the public this weekend (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> June).

**Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm. As it was thought that the council offices would not be large enough David Russell was to investigate the possibility of holding it at The Priory Church. This to be confirmed later.

# LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

## A G M

Held in The Priory Church , Leominster on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at 7pm

**Present:** D Lovegrove, J Lacey, J Gregory, I Gregory, M Tansley, C Lemm, D Emes, P Emes, D Russell, J Ayling, V Pearson, J Tromans, D Kerwood, D Boone, M Langford, J Miller, K Miller, F Howden.

**Apologies:** Cathy Fewlass, Yvonne Ayling, Liz Lovegrove, Naomi Anderson

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:** These were unanimously approved and signed by Chairperson.

**Matters Arising:** Denise said she had written to Mr Caldicott asking for permission to plant trees along the north side of the fence in the area before discussed. Mr Caldicott said he wanted them planted on the south side of the fence line. Subsequently it was decided to plant the hedge in two phases. The first along the new car park and the second from the end of the plots on the West side up to the gate. We had received £400 grant towards this from the Tree Officer at Herefordshire Council. The trees were to be native species with 3 cherry trees. Coral said she had 2 oaks if they required them. Mr Caldicott was agreeable to this so the planting could go ahead in the Autumn. Mark Tansley agreed to ask the scouts to do this. There was also the question of planting wild flowers on the amenity site to be discussed. Denise said she had not heard the result of the Heart of England in Bloom neighbourhood award yet.

### **Chairperson's Report:**

- Challenge of incorporating 50 new tenants.
- Need to include a higher percentage of tenants.
- Thanks to Eric Vernon for helping to enforce the dog ruling.
- Thanks to Eric for his work in affiliating our association to the National Allotment Society.
- We now have improved communications and working relationship with the community policing team.
- We have strengthened communications and working relationship with David Russell and the Town Council.
- We have formed links with other organisations within the wider community; with Coral lemm and the Youth Service.
- We have benefitted from a partnership with Age Concern and their Gardening Circles Scheme.
- We have benefitted from a contact with The Wye Woods Project who have provided locally coppiced bean poles and pea sticks. They are also involved with the 'Tree Bog' initiative.
- We have benefitted from the link with Steve Fletcher and the team from Marshfield who have been involved with the composting initiative.
- We have through the hard work of Fanny Howden, continued to develop links with other allotments.

- We have been involved with town events such as the banner display, the community play; The Two Fountains of the Apocalypse and contributed to Leominster in Bloom.
- The Scout hut was the venue for our most recent talk and it is hoped that the Scouts will help plant our proposed hedge.
- We have been successful in our bid for £400 to plant a hedge along the exposed Northern boundary of the site.
- We have had two talks about gardening, the first in February from Alan Davies and more recently from Kim Hurst. We hope to continue these in the New Year.
- We have entered for the Heart of England in Bloom, Neighbourhood Award and were judged by Angela Pendleton who was shown around the site by Cathy Fewlass on the 16th July.
- For the coming year we would hope to plant the hedge, establish the wild flower patch, make progress with the 'Tree Bog' and resolve the compost issue.
- Personally I am determined to improve communications among our members so that people are aware of our activities and are able to be actively involved.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

John said it had been a good year financially and at the present time there was a balance of £547, with £401 of this being in the bank. The membership now stood at 23. There had been a £20 donation at the first talk but the second one had lost money. However the Open Gardens sales had totalled £201.

To make the accounting casier he suggested that the membership should run from the time of the AGM. David Russell suggested that we have an Auditor to check the accounts and Diana Emcs offered to do this. J Ayling proposed her and Coral Lemm seconded it.

#### **Social Secretary's Report:**

Fanny reported on the events of 2009 so far including the two talks we held and the Open Day at the allotments when the local school children sang and cut the ribbon. She said that visitors from other allotments came including Ludlow, Knucklas and Bromyard. She thanked everyone who made cakes and helped that day and also John Moss for the hire of his marquee. The barbecue had proved successful and also the trips to Lawton Herbs and the Open Day at Bromyard Allotments. Forthcoming events would be 16<sup>th</sup> August Open Day at Knucklas, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> Scarecrows and Sunflower competition. Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Visit to Highgrove and on 2nd October the Harvest Supper.

#### **Election of Officers:**

John Tromans said he was standing down as Treasurer and nominations were sought for this post. Jane Lacey volunteered to do it with some handover help from John. Denise proposed this motion and Coral seconded it. Denise, Fanny and Diane all said they were prepared to stand for another term. This was proposed by Coral Lemm and seconded by Vivienne Pearson. Mark Langford said he was also standing down and Mark Tansley offered to stand in his place. This was proposed by Denise and seconded by Coral.

## **This ended the AGM**

### **Compost:**

The container holding waste material from the allotments was not being emptied by Marshfield as arranged. After much discussion it was decided to give Marshfield another month to see if they could remedy this and if not we would need to ask them to remove the container and everyone would be responsible for their own waste plant material.

### **Tree Bogs:**

Denise started by saying that at the last meeting the majority were in favour of these toilets and asked Mark Tansley if we needed planning permission. He replied that we would need permission. It was thought that the speaker who came to the last meeting did not explain fully all the details of the scheme and felt we needed more information. It was then suggested that we could visit one site where these toilets were in place to see for ourselves. Coral suggested we try for funding for the scheme. This to be on hold until further information has been obtained.

### **Victorian Market:**

It was suggested to have a stall in this market just before Christmas with produce and other appropriate material to sell for Association funds. Coral Lemm, Cathy Fewlass, Jane Lacey, Vivienne Pearson, Fanny Howden and Denise Kerwood would form a sub committee to organise this.

**Any Other Business:** None

**Date of Next Meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at The Town Council Offices, West Street.

## LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

### MEETING AT TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

ON THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT 7PM

**Present:** D Russell, D Kerwood, J Lacey, C Fewlass, V Pearson, F Howden, L Marsh  
J Marsh C Smith D Boone.

**Apologies:** Janet and Michael Bloy, John and Iris Gregory, Libi Welthy, David and Liz Lovegrove, Steven and Janet Gallimore, Naomi Andersson.

**Minutes of Last Meeting** These were approved by all present and signed by Denise Kerwood.

**Matter Arising:** Denise said the grant from Herefordshire Council for the trees was £300 not £400 as previously stated.

Denise and Cathy had attended the Heart of England in Bloom ceremony and had been awarded a Merit in The Neighbourhood Category for the community spirit at the allotments.

**Correspondence:** Denise said she had received a letter from Richard Westwood, the Mayor, thanking us for a very pleasant evening at the Harvest Supper and he said that he and Linda had enjoyed the good food, quiz and singing.

**Committee Reshuffle:** Both John Tromans and Mark Langford had stepped down from the Committee but Mark Tansley, Jane Lacey, Cathy Fewlass and Viv Pearson had now joined the Committee.

**Questionnaire Feedback:** At present only 15 had been received by Denise but there were a few more to come. It had been obvious that a lot of these people had wanted to get involved with the events of the Association. It was felt that it would be worth holding future events.

**Programme 2009/2010:** Cathy suggested we draw up a rough guide of events to be held during the year and this to be given to members when they joined. (See LAA Programme 2009-2010 as separate sheet).

**Hedge Planting:** Denise had checked with James Bissett that the funding would be available when needed and it was therefore permitted for Cathy to order the trees. Cathy would contact Mark Tansley to arrange for the Scouts to plant them.

**Insurance:** David said he had received 6 new members through the letter he had sent out and had had only one adverse reply. He said he was hoping for other new members soon.

**Victorian Market:** Denise said that with the cost of insurance and the cost of the stall the idea could go ahead and that she suggested we have a stall at the Seed-Swap in February. David suggested that Denise contact Felicity Norman with regard to having

a stall at the Apple Fair at the Priory on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Denise said she would look into this.

**Any Other Business:** David suggested that next year he would inform the winners of the best kept allotments in advance so they would attend the Awards Evening.

Diane asked what criterion the judges used and David said he had appointed 2 judges--one was a professional gardener and the other a keen amateur gardener both of whom had visited the allotments 3 times individually and both had arrived at the same result. The Environmental Award was judged by Trish Marsh and one assistant and that the Town Council were totally independent of this.

David said he had received an email from a lady representing a film company and wondered if this was a result of him previously writing to Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. He had replied to the email and had asked the lady to ring him.

Denise said the compost crate had been emptied but was again full.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wed 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**MINUTES OF LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**MEETING AT THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, WEST STREET**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7pm**

**Present:** D Russell, M Tansley, J Moss, Libi Welthy, C Fewlass, S Waldegrave, J Andress, J Lacey, D Kerwood, D Boone

**Apologies:** Janet and Michael Bloy, Liz and David Lovegrove, Naomi Andersson, J Braithwaite, L Hyett.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** These were approved by all present and signed by D Kerwood.

**Matters Arising:**

- a) **Programme of Year's Events:** Cathy said there was to be a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December to discuss this.
- b) **Insurance:** Diane explained the advantages of belonging to the NSALG and the insurance cover for public liability.
- c) **Victorian Fair:** Denise explained that after enquiring into the cost of having a stall at this market it was decided it would be too expensive and it was agreed to have a stall at the Apple Fair instead.

**Apple Fair:** This had proved to be a great success and Jane said a profit of £123 jhsf had been made.

**Hedge Planting:** Denise thanked everyone who had helped with the planting especially Mark and the 4 Scouts he had brought with him and Cathy and Jane for organising and getting the trees. It was agreed unanimously that Denise's home made soup was a great hit with all concerned.

Denise said James Bissett from Herefordshire Council had donated 2 cherry trees which will be added to the hedge.

**Future Events:**

- a) **Christmas tree in the Priory:** It was decided to put a tree in the Priory again this year. Denise would organise this with Fanny. David said the trees had to be in place by 11<sup>th</sup> December and must be removed before 21<sup>st</sup> December. Denise to contact Sheila Hodson regarding this.
- b) **John Moss' Talk:** It was decided that John would give his talk on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at the Scout Hut, Pinsley Road.

- c) **Future Talks:** John Moss said he would contact a speaker to talk on presentation of show exhibits. The date to be announced later.
- d) **Allotment Produce Show:** After discussion it was decided that we would look into the possibility of holding this at The Forbury Chapel. David said he estimated the cost to be about £50. It was decided that we would provide tea and cakes and hold a raffle to help fund this. We would hold various classes for vegetables and flowers. John Moss said he would sponsor a class for children. Mark said he could get the Beaver group to enter the children's section. It was also suggested that photographs could be included. John Moss said he would approach various shops in town to ask for sponsor money for the classes. He also said John Braithwaite had offered to organise a competition for marrows and pumpkins.

**Any Other Business:**

- a) Cathy asked if we could have a stall at the Priory fete in 2010 to help Priory funds. This to be decided at a later date.
- b) David said there had been an attack on one allotment and the gate had been left open again!

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 at **7.30pm** at the Town Council Offices (Note new time)