

**Leominster Allotment Association Minutes - Wednesday September 8th 7p.m,
@ the Town Council Offices**

- All were welcomed to the meeting and a special mention was made of Hilary Tuite as she is the new Treasurer and Membership Secretary
- Apologies- Ray, Julie Debbage, Viv Pearson, Graham Millard, John Braithwaite.
- Present Kay West, Samantha Shakespeare, Jane Lacey, Glenys Millard, Hilary Tuite, Stuart

Matters Arising from Minutes of AGM

1-**Number of vacant plots** – 1 plot is currently under offer but it is thought that several more plots will become vacant within the next couple of months due to plot holders moving.

2-Number of people on waiting list - 15

3-**New noticeboard** is a priority to improve communication. Old notice board to be utilised as a place where plot holders can collect fliers and forms from plastic wallets. (See 10) This has been ordered and now waiting for delivery.

4-Developments re **disabled toilet facility**. Currently on hold due to other commitments. Funding is needed and it was suggested that there might be local businesses that would sponsor this project. Another possibility is funding from the Allotment Regional Association.

5-**Time scale for developing the old recycling area into new plots and wildlife area**- It is anticipated that this will take place in Spring 2022

6- **Thefts and security**. No thefts reported recently.

The police held a Security Marking session at the allotments on the afternoon of Saturday July 10th but this was poorly attended due to the short notice. Another date for security marking has been set for Saturday October 23rd from 1p.m. until 3p.m. It is hoped that a longer period of notification will lead to a better attendance

Shutting the gate- Although a number of people appear to be complying with this request there are still times when it is left open or not locked. It was felt that if there are people working on plots then the gates could be closed but not locked. However, if a person is last to leave and no one else is on the site then, whatever the time of day, the gates should be locked. Signs to this effect need to be put up.

7-**Veteran allotment people**. A letter is in the process of being drafted so that people who have had to relinquish their plot can still have access to the site as **It states in the National Allotment Association** guidelines that “Where the quality of life of a tenant has been defined by their companionship of the allotment, the possibility should be considered of offering a solution that allows continued access

to the allotment community without the obligation to hold a tenancy. These people might wish to become L.A.A. members or the possibility of paying a “Veterans Fee” of £5 was discussed.

8- Arrangements for Harvest Supper Friday October 8th – Grange Court, John Abel Room at 7p.m

There is no limit on numbers. Hand gel is made available.

If people do not wish to share food, then they can supply their own. Tables to be set out so people can socially distance if they wish to. Otherwise, even numbered plot holders will be asked to contribute a savoury and odd numbered plot holders will be asked to contribute a sweet.

Bring your own drinks

No awards

Quizzes

Raffle

9- Allotment Association Membership This has been an administrative nightmare for all concerned as not all those who join submit a form. (This makes it particularly difficult when it comes to distributing the Kings seed catalogues). The LAA Committee are grateful that over the past few years the Town Council has voluntarily collected membership fees but, due to their new software, this task is now more difficult for them. Consequently, the LAA Committee would like to take over the task of collecting membership fees but would appreciate it if a flier re membership was handed out to plot holders as they renew or start their tenancy. (Membership form collected from allotment noticeboard by gate or from Community Shed with envelope included) *Payment methods would need to be set up.*

A.O.B

1-Using part of Community Garden to extend mini plots. This will take place in Autumn 2021

2- An on-site **Secure Post box** for suggestions and posting communications e.g. allotment membership forms and cheques will be installed as this facility might improve communication issues and save trips to the Town Council Offices.

3-Plant Fayre – Saturday September 18th Corn Square, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Donations of cut flowers, plants and produce needed as well as volunteers to man the stall. Donations can be collected from Community Garden on Friday evening or brought to the stall on Saturday morning.

4 - **Turn over of plots for new members**-It can take a long time to ascertain if a plot is being cared for or if help is needed. When the plot holder is sent the initial letter asking if they need assistance, they could be informed of the next inspection date

and state that a second letter will be forthcoming if there is no communication or sign that the plot is being cultivated. This might encourage better communication and hopefully release plots more quickly.

5 An open meeting to discuss wildlife area should take place as people have different ideas as to what a wildlife area should consist of. The L.I.B. It's Your Neighbourhood report will hopefully give suggestions, apart from the ideas given during the visit Bird and bat boxes. (To be discussed when report is received)

6-Kings seed catalogues- to be distributed in the next couple of weeks. Completed order forms with payment to 11 Ryelands Road: 1st.order by 6th.November and 2nd.order by 4th.December-by 3.00 both days Delivery of goods to 11 Ryelands Road. Thanks to John Braithwaite and Jane Lacey for organising this.

7-Feedback from Picnic on the Plot event of Sunday August 15th at 3:30- Only a few people attended this It was suggested that **Tea and cake sessions** at the community garden on a pop-up basis could take part on an impromptu but fairly regular basis. This was considered to be a good idea but no further suggestions given with Plant Fayre and Harvest Supper being the main focus at the moment.

8- Report from Treasurer, Glenys Millard as handed over to the incoming Treasurer, Hilary Tuite.

Meetings 2022

People were happy to continue to meet on a Wednesday

Summer meetings should take place at the allotment Community Garden as this might encourage other plot holders to join in. If wet the Community Shed or gazebo could be used Suggested months for outdoor meetings- May, July, September.

8-Date of next meeting – Wednesday November 3rd at Town Council Offices