

Leominster Allotment Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting, Sunday July 10th 2022

The meeting took place at the Community Garden on the allotment site at 3pm.

Present: Hilary Tuite (Treasurer and membership sec.), Kay West, Stuart Sidebotham (Council), Elizabeth Oxenham, Val Waring, Samantha Shakespeare, Laura Mill, Rob Evans, Sue Morris (minutes sec).

Apologies: Claire Powell (Chair), Graham and Glenys Millard

Kay chaired the meeting as Claire was unable to make it.

Minutes	Copies of the minutes of the AGM held on Saturday May 7 th at 2 p.m. were distributed and approved.
Leominster in Bloom report	<p>Making the entrance more welcoming. Stuart has some spare tubs to be planted up and placed near the entrance. A welcome sign is to be commissioned from Sign-rite.</p> <p>Encouraging use of water butts – this is up to individual plot holders and whether they have a shed.</p> <p>This year’s assessment visit will take place on Saturday, 16th July. David and Lesley Pritchard are the LiB representatives. They are looking for organic and wild-life friendly planting, community involvement and social events. They like to chat to plot holders, Kay West to prepare a portfolio, and will meet and greet. Sue Morris will bring cakes.</p>
Matters arising from Site Inspection	<p><u>New loo for disabled and raised mini beds.</u> Stuart has approached a company which supplies composting toilets and will arrange a site visit. This will be sited near the second car park, close to the new raised beds which will also be wheelchair accessible. When the company has given a quote, Stuart will apply for funding. The gate at the far end of the site will be relocated in the Autumn to nearer the second car park to prevent vehicular access to the area adjacent to the wildlife area as this causes the track to become very muddy in wet weather.</p> <p><u>Ruts in lane, fallen tree.</u> The Council will fill in the ruts in the allotment track and also the one near the entrance gate on the access lane. However, this lane is the responsibility of Western Power and they have been asked to deal with the other potholes and the fallen tree.</p> <p><u>Bat and bird boxes</u> The Council have two bat boxes but need expert advice on where to position them. Samantha Shakespeare now has a bat certificate and is willing to help. Bird boxes are also to be site in or near the allotments. Sam will ask her bird expert work colleague to advise.</p> <p><u>Waiting List</u> 13 people are on the list. Stuart is preparing a welcome leaflet with essential info: e.g., the gate key opens the community shed, discounts at local shops etc. Kay will cooperate with this.</p>
September plant fayre	This is held in Leominster in mid-September. The Association will have a stall and plot holders are encouraged to volunteer to help and to contribute produce, cut flowers, preserves and plants to sell for Association funds.
Harvest Supper	This will be held on Saturday, 8 th October in the John Abel room in Grange Court. This year we are asking plot holders of odd-numbered plots to bring

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	<p>savoury dishes and even numbered to bring sweet dishes. Those present agreed that the Harvest Supper is a very enjoyable occasion and all plot holders are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>There was much discussion about awards that are usually presented at the supper. No awards were given last year as Covid restrictions meant that some people were unable to go to their plots at all. Stuart mentioned that at the moment, there are no judges available to decide on the awards. Kay proposed that more informal and inclusive categories should be chosen such as best shed, most bee-friendly planting, most improved etc. These could be voted on by other plot holders provided they do not nominate themselves. Discussion of this is ongoing.</p>
Treasurer's report	<p>Since the last committee meeting, expenditure has included £99.98 for a gazebo in May and £66.89 for compost and plants for the tubs by the second car park as well as slow-release fertiliser granules for continued growth.</p> <p>Income of £111.20 was achieved at the Spring Fair in May. £100 was banked and £11.20 retained as petty cash.</p> <p>The bank balance currently stands at £1076.49</p> <p>Forms for membership will be available for collection from the noticeboard near the entrance gate with various methods of payment outlined.</p> <p>Benefits of membership were discussed. The Association is affiliated with the National Allotment Association which provides liability insurance for your plot. Discounts are available at Phillpotts. Discounted seeds are available from Kings Seeds when you put your order in through the Association. Membership runs from August to August and costs £7.50 p.a.</p>
AOB	<p>The crackling noise from the electricity pylons was raised but Stuart assured us that it was not in any way dangerous.</p> <p>One plot holder turned his ankle in a hole on the track caused by a sunken molehill. It was thought quite difficult for the Council workers to eliminate all holes hidden by grass but plot holders were urged to watch out and if possible, to fill in any holes they happen to notice.</p>
	Attendees were thanked for their attendance and the meeting was closed.