



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 09.07.23 3pm in the community shed

Present: Kay West (acting Chair), Hilary Tuite (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Sue Morris (Secretary), Stuart Sidebotham (Leominster Town Council Grounds), Rob Evans, Heather Davies, Mary Locock, Graham & Glenys Millard, Samantha Shakespeare

1	Apologies	Simon Pickhaver
2	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	Minutes were circulated and taken as read. Matters arising were covered in the agenda.
3	Membership and treasurer's report	Membership still stands at 27. 9th July was supposed to be membership recruitment day. Kay and Hilary spent all morning at the site which was extremely quiet but they gave several plot holders Association Membership forms and invited them to join. Refreshments and a children's treasure hunt had been prepared. Kay and Hilary spent the time weeding the new miniplots. The bank account still stands at £1279.26 with an as yet unpresented cheque for the website fee still outstanding and an invoice expected for printing of membership cards thanks to Stuart's father.
4	Waiting list	There are currently 21 on the waiting list. One plot holder wishes to downsize so his plot will be split into 2 half plots taking one person off the waiting list. Stuart is going to check whether there is enough room for two further half plots to be created at the far end of the site. Existing plot holders are allowed to swap plots but it is essential that this is cleared with the council so that there is a record of who is responsible for the rent on each plot.
5	Feedback from last site inspection	10 letters have been issued regarding plots that do not appear to have been worked on. Plot holders are asked to please let the committee or the council know if there is a health issue or other reason why your plot cannot be worked on for a while so that unnecessary letters are not sent out.
6	Minibeds and exhibition plot	The new miniplots are nearly completed. Three have been let. The others will be offered to people on the waiting list so that they can get started with annual plants. This will not jeopardise their place on the waiting list for a larger plot. Two are available for use as demonstration beds for unusual



		vegetable varieties. Two people have expressed an interest in doing this.
7	Progress on bat and bird nest boxes	Kay had no reply from the company she approached so Heather will ask Echo if they can make another bat box following the design of one she has bought online. It was proposed to run a bug hotel making workshop later in the summer especially but not exclusively for children. Hilary expressed an interest in running this.
8	Photo of the month	Claire still does this when there are enough photos of sufficient quality. Thanks to her. Please keep on posting allotment photos to Facebook.
9	Harvest Supper and Awards	The Harvest supper will take place on Friday, 6 th October at the Forbury on Church Street. A list of possible awards has been drawn up and Leominster in Bloom will be approached to provide a judge once the town centre has been judged by the Heart of England in Bloom.
10	Autumn plant fair	This will take place on September 23 rd so please prepare plants and produce for sale. We will try to come to an arrangement with the organisers, Leominster in Bloom regarding public liability insurance. Thanks to Daved Saunders for his advice.
11	AOB	<p>Stuart reminded us of the ban on the use of hosepipes on the site and that this is in the contract. He should be informed of any contraventions. If a person has a health issue and is unable to lift a watering can, they should contact the council to ask about an official exemption. The reason for the ban is so that no irrigation systems are left running all night.</p> <p>7 people have not paid their rent. If the individuals do not respond to contacts, a notice will be affixed to their plot gate before they are evicted and the plot reallocated. Stuart emphasised the importance of informing the council if plots are swapped so that rent arrears letters are not sent to the wrong person.</p> <p>Plot 51 has persistent problems with flooding in the winter. Stuart will engage a person with a mnidigger to investigate. If the problem proves to be a natural spring, Kay suggests that a permanent pond should be created in the bottom half of the plot.</p>



		Members were thanked for their attendance and the meeting was closed.
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