



<b>Minutes of Allotment Association Meeting, Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at allotment site.</b>	
Present	Kay West (acting chair), Hilary Tuite (treasurer and membership sec), Sue Morris (minutes sec), Heather Davies, Mary Locock, Graham and Glenys Millard, Marcus Williams, Penny Fear, Charlotte Collier and junior member, Martha Collier.
Apologies	Samantha Shakespeare, Simon P., Stuart Sidebotham (Grounds)
Minutes	Minutes were circulated and read. Matters arising: to be covered in the agenda.
Membership and Treasurer's report	Bank account stands at £1462.26 with an unrepresented cheque for £7.50 still to come. Membership stands at only 20. Hilary outlined the benefits of LAA membership to new members and asked for a meeting of officers to discuss better ways of collecting the membership fees. This meeting is to be arranged.
King's seed Catalogue and seed order	Catalogues were distributed to those present and the way the scheme works was explained. If the order is in in good time, the LAA benefits from a small proportion of the order cost and the members get their orders delivered to them. Members agreed that the King's seeds were good value and were reliable seeds. We are awaiting confirmation of the order deadline dates and whether Jane Lacey and John Braithwaite still want to organise the seed order.
Waiting List	The waiting list is back up to 23. One plot holder wishes to downsize so a half plot may become available soon. One of those on the waiting list has taken advantage of the offer of a mini bed until such time as she gets to the top of the waiting list for a larger plot. Her work was admired.
Site inspection	This is carried out monthly by Stuart and at least one of the LAA officers. Two letters have been issued regarding non-cultivation of plots and some have been added to the watch list. Good work by new plot holders was noted and commended.
Jobs needing to be done on the site	Stuart has approached a groundworks company to investigate the severe waterlogging on one of the plots. The works will involve an extensive trench which will also render the two adjacent plots unavailable for rent until the investigation is complete. Stuart has also ordered more topsoil for some of the mini beds. Stuart is also intending to look for quotes for refurbishment of the water tanks, some of which have sunk and become tilted and leaky. This puts the price of the metered water up unnecessarily and could in the future impinge on plot rents if not attended to. The tree bog roof still needs attention as one of the roof planks has slipped out of place. The gate by the far end of the site should be moved to by the wildlife area so that people do not drive on ground which becomes very wet during the winter. The Harris fencing by the wildlife area will also be removed.



	<p>Jobs for the community. Volunteers welcome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement of community tool shed. Please look out for second hand sheds in the marketplace.</li> <li>• Repainting the kitchen shed</li> <li>• Maintenance on the flower bed by the community area. There will be a work party later in October.</li> </ul>
Progress on Bat boxes	<p>Heather has taken her own bat box to Eaton Barn for their volunteers to use as a template.</p> <p>Each box should be secure i.e., constructed so that the bats are not handled in any way and needs to be made of untreated wood, which may take longer for Eaton Barn to source as they only use recycled timber. Heather has asked for 6 at a cost of £15 each, total cost £90. The Council might pay for these. It is hoped that the boxes might be ready to be placed on the site in the Spring.</p>
Harvest Supper	<p>The venue is booked annually by the town council and all plot holders and partners are warmly invited to attend on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm in the Forbury. This year odd numbered plots are asked to bring desserts and even numbered plots are asked to bring savoury dishes.</p> <p>This year there will be awards which will be presented by Lesley and David Pritchard who judged the awards and who also assessed the allotments for "It's our Neighbourhood" in Bloom. Prize winners will be notified individually and we hope they will all attend.</p>
Autumn Plant Fair	<p>This is organised by Leominster in Bloom and will take place in Corn Square on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Unfortunately, it looks unlikely that we will be able to have a stall because of problems obtaining public liability insurance. Sue is going to contact the organiser, Cynthia Partridge, and Hilary will contact Jance Lacey who is also a member of LiB.</p>
Date of next meeting	<p>Wednesday Nov 8<sup>th</sup> at Art Room, Town Council, Corn Square at 7pm</p>
AOB	<p>Rat control. The pest control officer may visit your plot even though you have not reported a rat problem. This is because Stuart is trying to use the call outs more efficiently so that the whole area around a rat sighting can be checked so he may ask them to check several plots in a block. If you get an unexpected notification, it will be because rats have been reported near to your plot.</p> <p>Manure. Farmer Andrew Bennett has offered to deliver a load of up to 5 tons of well-rotted cow manure if a group of plot holders would like to share the cost. Sue will ask the cost and whether the delivery vehicle could make the turn through the site entrance.</p>
<p>Members were thanked for their attendance. The meeting closed at 4pm</p>	