



<b>Minutes of Allotment Association Meeting, Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Council Art Gallery</b>	
Present	Kay West (acting chair), (treasurer and membership sec), Stuart Sidebotham (Council Grounds), Sue Morris (minutes sec), Heather Davies, Mary Locock, Graham Millard
Apologies	Hilary Tuite, Samantha Shakespeare, Viv Pearson
Minutes	Minutes were circulated and read. Matters arising: RSPB birdwatch – 15 different bird species were observed on the site. David Thresher at Berrington will be contacted to see if he will act as a judge for allotment awards. Claire has restarted the Photo of the Month competition so please post your allotment photos to our Facebook page,
Membership and Treasurer's report	Hilary sent the following information: Bank account stands at £1235.01 but £20 for the Spring Fair has still to come out. There are currently 27 paid-up members, no change from before.
Encouraging wildlife	Kay has contacted Timber World requesting free bird and bat boxes made by volunteer staff from off-cuts. They have requested designs which she has sent. Bird boxes must be sited facing between North and East and bat boxes should face SSE to SSW.
Events	A litter pick to remove items from the public areas of the site and the surrounding hedge will be held on Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am. Stuart will bring litter pickers and bags. Heather now has the trees (whips) from Woodland Trust and a start will be made on planting these. Stuart offered to finish the job with some of his team if necessary. Sue to publicise on FB .Recruitment day will take place later after the council has issued this year's invoices. Scrape dig – organise later.
Reducing plastic on the site	Heather explained that although plastic is very useful on an allotment, too many old and disintegrating plastic items such as plant pots, plastic bottles and compost bags are left lying around and will break into smaller pieces if not removed. It was suggested that the LAA could provide a mini-skip annually for people, especially those without cars, to dispose of non-compostable waste. Sue outlined ways of reducing plastic such as using toilet rolls instead of pots. If anyone has a trailer, they can get a builder's bag full of loose compost from Severn Trent recycling at Wyre Piddle for about £5 + VAT. Their minimum delivery to the allotment would be 8 tonnes but access for such a large lorry to our site would be impractical.
Leominster in Bloom Spring Plant Fair	Spring Fair to be held on 13 <sup>th</sup> May, not 20 <sup>th</sup> as previously stated. We need plot holders to sow extra seedlings and donate plants for the stall, also to man the stall on the day. We hope to wooden plant labels on the stall. "The Works" offers lollipop sticks at 100 for £1 plus delivery.



Vacant plots, waiting list, new plot holder info pack	There are 22 on the waiting list. The new admin assistant, Sarah, has checked that everyone on the list still wants an allotment. Thanks to her for sterling work on this and sending out letters etc. Stuart has made progress on the info pack based on the contract. Kay had produced an amended version and both will work on it shortly.	
Site Matters	Improvements to swap table	pending
	Repairs to water tanks	Stuart has contacted Les Price, the plumber who installed the tanks initially. When there is no danger of frost, Stuart will turn on the water and note any leaks, which Les will then repair. Stuart is trying to get funding from the Council for 2 extra tanks on the top row where currently there are none.
	Removal of taps	Stuart is reluctant to remove taps in case a special exception against the ban on hosepipes has to be lifted for someone with mobility problems
	Improve water harvesting from tree bog.	Stuart will get one of his team to look at reinstating a water butt on the tree bog to provide hand washing water.
	Gate	The gate at the far end of the site will be moved to by the wildlife area to prevent cars using the grass track in the winter
Hereford Wildlife Trust	Tracey Price from HWT has contacted Kay to ask if we could help with her project to encourage people to grow their own food in a wildlife friendly way. She was invited to attend the meeting but was unable to. Kay to contact her again.	
AGM	Sunday, May 14 <sup>th</sup> on the site. To be publicised from April.	
AOB	Mary wondered whether there were any goat willows among the small trees to be planted. It provides an early source of nectar for bees. She encouraged everyone to provide early flowering plants for the bees.	
The meeting closed at 20.15		