

Minutes of Allotment Association Meeting, Wednesday January 11th ,7pm, 2023, Council Art Gallery

Present	Kay West (acting chair), Hilary Tuite (treasurer and membership sec), Stuart Sidebotham (Council Grounds), Sue Morris (minutes sec) Viv Pearson, Hazel Davies, Mary Locock, Simon P.	
Apologies	Glenys and Graham Millard, Jane Lacey, Valerie Waring	
Minutes	Taken as read as already circulated	
Allocation of tasks	Would be done as the needs arise.	
RSPB	Plot holders are encouraged to take part in the RSPB annual bird watch on 27 th and 29 th January. Record all the birds which visit your plot for one hour on one of the days. Forms and observation sheets to be made available in the Community Shed.	
Recruitment of new members	Following Hilary's suggestion, Stuart will include a flyer explaining about joining the allotment association with the rental invoices. This will emphasise the separation between the council rent and the association membership fee. The Association membership runs concurrently with the National Allotment Association which is due on August 18 th . One or more recruitment days with a presence by the main entrance will be held from June. Simon asked what the benefits of membership of the association were and it was explained that the main ones are insurance cover under the NAA scheme and the King's Seed Scheme. Simon also commented on the high cost of the allotment rent in Leominster. Kay pointed out that the costs in Leominster were comparable to those elsewhere in Herefordshire. The site is leased from the landowner so the rents have to cover this cost.	
Leominster in Bloom Spring Plant Fair and It's your neighbourhood award	Spring Fair to be held on 20 th May. It was agreed to take part and appeals will be made for plot holders to raise and donate extra seedlings. The Autumn Plant Fair will be held on 23 rd September. It was agreed that the LiB It's Your Neighbourhood award was generally positive and helps us to work a bit harder at improvements. Kay will apply and prepare a dossier for the judges.	
Treasurer's report & Membership	The balance at the bank is currently £1291.76. Since our last meeting, the payment for the first seed order has been paid for with the LAA making a small surplus of £17.51. Membership now stands at 27 fully paid-up members. Hilary made some suggestions for recruiting new members (see above).	
Vacant plots, waiting list, new plot holder info pack	There are 14 on the waiting list and currently no vacant plots. Stuart is still working on the new plot holder information pack which is hoped to be an A4 sheet with bullet points outlining the rules of the site.	
Dates of meetings	Wed, March 15 th , AGM Sunday May, 14 th , July 9 th , September 10 th , November 8 th . Harvest Supper Oct 6 th or 13 th . Could Council check cost and availability of the Forbury?	
Site Matters	Improvements to swap table	Roofing and side panels have already been acquired and we are awaiting better weather to install. Volunteers needed.
	Repairs to water tanks	Stuart has tried many plumbers but no one has been willing to take on the job. Viv suggested Les Price who did the original

		installation. Sam Shakespeare asked for consideration to be given to installing simple drainage channels under the walkways at the far end of the site which become saturated and muddy if the water pipes are leaking in the area as happened before.
	Removal of taps	There was discussion about the use of hose-pipes for those who are unable to carry watering cans (e.g. Simon who had an injury in the summer) Hose-pipes are currently banned because some tenants had used overnight sprinklers which use a huge amount of water. This will ultimately be a Council decision.
	Improve water harvesting from cube and tree bog.	Sue will attempt to find someone with a trailer who could collect rainwater butts or IBCS .
	Wildlife area	Samantha has asked her colleague, Nick Staples, a meadow expert, to advise on care and development of the wildlife area. A natural meadow grassland could be developed in the space of a few years. He will visit the site on Tuesday, 17 th Jan at 10.30. Stuart also hopes to attend. We hope to get advice on siting bat boxes although Samantha can do this. Viv suggested a working group to make bird/bat boxes. Echo also make these. FB posts to be used to inform plot holders of the aims of the wildlife area. (Sue with input from Samantha and Kay)
	Gate to shut off the far end of site to vehicles in winter	Kay would like a gate rather than the fencing used at the moment. She needs the measurements to plan wild life area. Stuart said there wasn't enough money in the council grounds maintenance fund to do this but he would check. There are currently no funds for the disabled composting toilet.
Awards Scheme		A judge to visit the site about 3 times a year would be needed. Mary suggested David Thresher, from Berrington Hall. Stuart will try to contact him. Categories to be decided.
AOB		Hazel has obtained a pack of small trees (rowan, hazel, crab apple) from the Woodland Trust. They should arrive in March and an appeal for help with planting will be made then. Simon asked if anyone had used "Wonderwall" which is a system of protection for brassicas. Restart photo of the month on FB (Sue to ask Rob)

Minutes of Allotment Association Meeting, Wednesday March 15th 2023 ,7pm, Council Art Gallery

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 th 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 th May, not 20 th 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 th 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		

Leominster Allotment Association Annual General Meeting 2023 Minutes

Sunday, May 14th 2023 at 3pm Community Garden, Ginhall Lane Allotment site

Committee Members present: Kay West, Hilary Tuite, Sue Morris, Graham and Glenys Millard,

Others present: Val Waring plot 88, Jane Lacey plot 21, Simon Pickhaver plot 37, Andrew Mackay, plot 29b, Graeme Ainsworth, plot 72.

Apologies: Stuart Sidebotham, Samantha Shakespeare, Viv Pearson, Heather Davies, Daved Saunders, Philip and Anne Purcell, Marcus Williams, Mary Locock

2.	Minutes of last AGM	Printed copies of the minutes of last year's AGM were circulated and read. Approved unanimously.
3	Matters arising	Progress on wildlife area. See item 7.
4	Chair report	<p>Kay outlined the activities which had taken place over the year.</p> <p>The Leominster in Bloom assessment in July raised our award from "Good" to "Thriving". The assessors liked the variety of planting but were still keen for us to improve rainwater harvesting and noted that other recommendations eg flowers at the site entrance had been implemented.</p> <p>The Harvest Supper took place on Saturday, October 8th Plot holders supplied excellent food, Kay prepared a quiz, Sam did the flowers and there was a raffle. Special guests were David and Lesley Pritchard, the Leominster in Bloom "It's your neighbourhood Award" assessors and Romy Worthington, chairperson of LiB. Due to problems with access to the kitchen at Grange Court, the next Harvest Supper will take place at the Forbury on Church Street on October 7th 2023.</p> <p>On 24th October, committee members went in search of a composting loo similar to the one proposed for our site. We found an excellent one at the remote St Thomas à Becket church at Huntington, near Kington. However, the Council currently has no funds to install one.</p> <p>In January three plot holders took part in the RSPB Garden Bird Watch and observed a number of different species including green woodpeckers.</p> <p>Tracey Evans, Community Officer of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, met with Kay and Sue to discuss her projects for community engagement with gardening.</p> <p>Pudleston and District Rambling and Nature group toured the allotment site on 9th May and kindly donated £20 which will be spent on plants for the tubs by the car parks.</p> <p>We did not take our usual stall at the LiB Spring Plant Fair on May 13th because of the current new requirement to provide our own public liability insurance. There was discussion about this and Jane Lacey, as a member of LiB, will investigate further. We hope to be at the Autumn Plant Fair.</p>

	<p>Kay and Stuart have worked on a plot holder information pack which has been issued to all plot holders with the renewal of their contracts. Jane pointed out the advantages of the previous system whereby a representative of the LAA committee would meet new tenants and show them round the site. Could this be reinstated? Tips from the information sheet to be posted regularly on the facebook page.</p> <p>Kay would like to relinquish the role of Chairperson although is willing to help another person to do it. She appreciated the help given by other committee members.</p>
<p>Secretary's report</p>	<p>We have held 4 committee meetings (which can be attended by any members) on July 10th at the site, and on November 9th, January 11th and March 15th in the Art Gallery In the Council building in Corn Square.</p> <p>We have been looking into things which we might be able to do to benefit plot holders more.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting a bulk delivery of soil conditioner from Severn Trent – they have a minimum delivery of several tonnes and the lorry couldn't do the turn from the track into the site. 2. Obtaining water butts and IBCS. A Company in Dymock supplies used water containers but would charge £100 for delivery. 3. Supplying guttering to help people set up roof drainage for water butts. Thank you to Ian Jones who supplied lengths of guttering from his place of work. We could also do with some brackets and connectors! <p>We are hoping to hire a skip so that bulky items such as pieces of greenhouse or broken polytunnels can be removed. Jane pointed out that when done before, people brough rubbish from home. Simon P suggested that the bulky rubbish could be placed by the first car park and then loaded on a specific day by volunteers</p> <p>We are also planning an event on Sunday, July 9th to recruit more members, have some food and fun activities as well as security marking of property by the police.</p>
<p>Treasurer's and Membership Report</p>	<p>Membership is at 27, hence the need for a recruitment drive before August when the National Allotment Association subs are paid.</p> <p>Treasurer's report The current balance at the bank is £1279.26. Last year, our income was £462.58 and overall expenditure was £432.93, which is a small profit of £29.65. This year we are unlikely to break even due to unrepresented invoices and not having a stall at the Spring Plant Fair because of the prohibitive cost of public liability insurance. I feel that steps must be taken to recruit more members and to</p>

		investigate with Leominster in Bloom the possibility of sharing their insurance so that we can do the Autumn Plant Fair. Only 5 people took advantage of the Kings Seed Scheme, which brought in a small profit of £10. The income from the two Plant Fairs last year was £190 but only £121.50 from membership. Our largest drop in income was from reduced membership.
7	Progress on Wildlife Area	Kay has raked and cleared a lot of rubbish from the wildlife area, with help from other plot holders. The central strip is to become a wild flower meadow but will require regular mowing for a few years to reduce the nettles, control the grass and allow wild plants to colonise the area. Heather Davies obtained more tree whips which were planted in an extension to the new hedge by a working party of plot holders who also did a litter pick. Thanks to Stuart and the Town Council for supplying litter picking equipment and removing the rubbish. Action on bat boxes still awaited. We have two but need three for appropriate siting.
8	Waiting List	Currently at 14, down from 22. Stuart has top soil ready to fill in some of the miniplots by the community shed. These need some identification mark so we know whose they are. Julie, the town clerk, is working on lease renewal.
9	Web-site and social media	The invoice for the web-site has just been paid. The Facebook page is well used. However, the blackboard at the entrance is also an effective means of communication.
10	Seed order	Jane reported that as far as she knows John Braithwaite is still willing to do the seed order and she is willing to help him. Thanks to them both.
11.	Election of Officers	The current team of Kay West (acting chairperson) Hilary Tuite (membership and treasurer) and Sue Morris (Minutes Secretary) were willing to continue for another year. This was proposed by Jane Lacey and seconded by Graham Millard. Graham thanked the office holders for their work.
12.	Dates of future meetings	Sunday July 9 th meeting and recruitment, Sunday, September 9 th , both at the site. Wednesday, November 8 th 7pm Council Art gallery Leominster in Bloom assessment visit July 8 th or 15 th if wet on 8 th .
13.	AOB	Simon mentioned a water leak between plots 35 and 36. These should be reported to Stuart at grounds@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk .

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	<p>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.</p> <p>The bank account still stands at £1279.26 with an as yet unrepresented cheque for the website fee still outstanding and an invoice expected for printing of membership cards thanks to Stuart's father.</p>
4	Waiting list	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>Two are available for use as demonstration beds for unusual vegetable varieties. Two people have expressed an interest in doing this.</p>
7	Progress on bat and bird nest boxes	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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.

Minutes of Allotment Association Meeting, Sunday, September 10th at allotment site.	
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 unpresented 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The tree bog roof still needs attention as one of the roof planks has slipped out of place.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Harris fencing by the wildlife area will also be removed.</p> <p>Jobs for the community. Volunteers welcome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of community tool shed. Please look out for second hand sheds in the marketplace. • Repainting the kitchen shed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance on the flower bed by the community area. There will be a work party later in October.
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 6th 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 23rd 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 8th 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>	

Minutes of Allotment Association Meeting, Wednesday, November 8th 2023 at Town Council Art Gallery.	
Present	Kay West (acting chair), Sue Morris (minutes sec), Heather Davies, Mary Locock, Charlie Cross, Stuart Sidebotham (Leominster Grounds Officer)
Apologies	Hilary Tuite, Daved Saunders, Graham Millard
Minutes	Circulated and approved
Autumn Fair	Raised £57.60. Shared insurance with Claire's craft stall, thanks to her and everyone who contributed time and plants and produce. Next time remember folding chairs.
Harvest Supper	Held at Forbury, on Friday, October 6 th . About 30 people attended this enjoyable evening and awards were presented. Prizes of £10 gift vouchers for Philpott's were appreciated.
Manure Delivery	Thanks to Claire and family for organizing this large load. It went very well and there was a lot of cooperation. The sale of the rest of the load has raised £77.55 for Association funds. We hope to repeat the delivery.
King's seed Catalogue and seed order	3 orders received so far. The cut off to get your orders to John Braithwaite at 11 Ryelands Road is November 11 th .
Waiting List	18. There are some plots becoming available but some need tree or drainage work before they can be let out. There are three vacant mini plots but these are awaiting more topsoil.
Jobs done on the site	Stuart's team have removed the old community tool shed and replaced it by a much better one donated by Graham Millard. Kay has done some internal improvements. Stuart has accepted a tender from a groundworks company to investigate the severe waterlogging on one of the plots. Unfortunately, the tracks are currently so wet that it is impossible to take machinery or vehicles on to them. This has prevented some other jobs including moving the gate. The tree bog roof has been repaired. An IBC has been installed behind the community shed and is already full.
Progress on Bat boxes	The Sheds Together group have made 2 bat boxes at £16 each. This was paid for by LAA. More have been ordered from Eaton Barn and will be paid for by the Town Council. The delay is because they only use recycled, donated wood and are waiting for some untreated timber to be donated. The boxes need to be sited on tall trees either on the track or on Gin Hall Green. Sheds Together also make bird boxes at £5 each.
Rat Control	There are a number of rats on the site at the moment. New legislation will require new metal bait boxes to be sited under or close to sheds or under decking and not close to hedgerows. The bait boxes contain non-toxic food with a dye which enables the LeoPest officer to find where the rats are. LeoPest want to get 25 new boxes in place to get ahead of the new rules. Plot holders will be asked before any boxes are installed on their plots.
Treasurer's report	Since our last meeting we have received £57.60 from the plant fair and £44.60 from the raffle at the Harvest supper. Expenditure of £10 for the plant fair and £11 for refreshments and a further payment for 2 bat boxes of £16. The available balance at the bank is £1237.46 plus the money from sale of manure.

Membership	<p>is now standing at 24.</p> <p>Hilary has been in contact with Sarah in the office and she can see no reason why we cannot send membership forms out with the rent renewal notices in the spring, Stuart is already aware of this and Sarah was going to run it past Julie at a staff meeting yesterday.</p> <p>The current forms will need to be amended to make sure that the plot holders understand clearly that the Association membership fee must be paid to the Treasurer and not to the Council.</p> <p>This will have the effect of giving us more viable numbers to work with as well as more income available to enable more benefits for our members.</p>
Dates of 2024 meetings	January 10 th , March 6 th , July 14 th , September 8 th , November 6 th
AOB	<p>Charlie Cross asked about lease renewal, which Julie is negotiating with the landowners. Mary Locock requested help in restoring her fence. Charlie suggested a barbecue and skills share event in the summer.</p> <p>Sue will find out the cost of an IBC with a rain-collecting roof which could possibly be installed on the row where there are no water tanks.</p>
Members were thanked for their attendance. The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.	