

Alers Road Leisure Gardens Association Committee Meeting Minutes - 26th May 2024

Present	Apologies for Absence
Adrian Hawthorne – Chairman	Eddy Haydon
Debra Collins – Secretary	Linda Hartard
John Hollands - Treasurer	Roy Seymour
Ray Mitchell	
John Young	
Richard Collins	
Ray Mudie	
Mary Harrison	

Min	Item	Action
1.0	WELCOME	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies given.	
2.0	OPEN ACCESS	
	None	
3.0	Previous Meeting	
	The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
4.0	MATTERS ARISING	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slabs have now been put down outside the shop. May need to add one more slab, John H will see. • The compost has been purchased using the vouchers from the Ruxley in Bloom for the tubs around the site. 	
5.0	CHAIR'S REPORT	
	There are snails everywhere this year due to the wet weather we have been experiencing. As soon as clear some more appear. Everyone agreed they are all having the same problems.	
6.0	TREASURER'S REPORT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See sheets shared by John Holland for full information. • Water bill: £190, the bill is reduced because we had a credit. The bill has been estimated for the next few months. • Bought a new mower at cost of £819 • Adrian asked about the £4 credit and key deposits. Adrian asked if the old pot holders return keys and get their deposit back. JH and DC explained that very few do return keys. • JH said that if local authority raises the rents, he will question it as we are meant to get 1 year's notice. Adrian commented that up north allotment rents have increased massively. JH said that can't change tenancy 	

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	agreement for 1 year. He understands that Greenwich and other areas are more than Bexley.	
7.0	BUSINESS PLAN	
	The business plan has been shared with the local authority. We have had no response. This no longer needs to be an item on the agenda.	
8.0	PLOTS REPORT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We currently have 19 on the waiting list. 14 new people and 5 current plot holders waiting for specific plots. Currently the wait is approximately 4 – 5 months. • Letters sent following the last survey. 2 plot holders, Winston Recardo and John Regan asked for extra time prior to the resurvey. These were the only two that were highlighted from the resurvey. I will check the plots again this week. • I have completed the entry for the Ruxley in Bloom competition. • We have had an enquiry from ALP Parkview Academy – Claire Ward. This is an independent special needs school for 7 – 19-year-olds. They would like to have a plot for the students to cultivate. They will be supervised by staff at all times and only small groups at a time. I wanted to clarify due to age of the students that this would be acceptable before adding Claire to the waiting list. Everyone on the committee were happy for the school to have a plot. JH said that the plot would have to be in someone’s name and that the plot must be cultivated all year round. DC to contact Claire and let her know that we are able to add her details to the waiting list and explain the points John stated. 	
9.0	SITE REPORT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the accident, the builders have now moved barriers. One of the bosses said all ok, but then a 2nd one said he was not sure. There is a lot of brick mortar. The mortar is where the woodchips are as well as where the children play. John has spoke to the builders to get it cleared. A brick also went through a polytunnel and this is also being sorted. • There have been several thefts, this is antisocial behaviour and we all need to be vigilant when on site. DC to add an item to the newsletter regarding this. RM asked if we should mention locking the gate on entry and exit. DC said that this has been mentioned nearly every time and all new plot holders are told about the importance of locking the gate. DC will mention it again. • Tree’s on Pats plot. JY asked what is happening. JH & DC said that there is no more we can do. We have written and spoken to the home owner stating that he is liable. We have contacted the council but they do not want to get involved. 	
10.0	MACHINARY REPORT	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last meeting reported that the strimmer was being repaired. It is now back and all 3 are ok. The roller mower – constantly being repaired. The guy thinks the clutch is being slipped. We have gone through 3 gear boxes. We have now bought a new mower. This mower has variable speed, it is a professional mower it should not be used any lower than the 6th setting. Below this is for bowling greens and cricket pitches. Adrian asked if we could do a shout out regarding the mowers and strimmer. All equipment should be cleaned before returning them. It is not for the members of the committee to do this. 	
11.0	PROPOSED ALLOTMENT AGREEMENT	
	No new updates	
11.0	FEDERATION REPORT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the meeting on the 8th April 2024, 3 have stood as Secretary, Chairman and Treasurer. So Federation is continuing. The new Secretary and Chairman met with John at our site and seemed keen and able. There is an AGM Meeting on the 17th June 2024 where the new roles will be elected in. Debra is attending the meeting, unsure if Eddy will also be attending as the other representative from our site. 	
12.0	SOCIAL MEDIA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Y said that he tried to access the admin for our facebook page but then it linked up with his personal one so he stopped. Seems there are 2 facebook pages for Alers Road Allotment Garden. A historical one and the other has 16 Friends on it. We have not had any contact with the college who said they may be able to offer some training on Social Media. DC said that she would ask her colleague at work for a simple guide on setting up content on Facebook. 	
13.0	WEBSITE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Y shared a print out, see sheet for details Most people access the site via their Mobile phones We had 25 unique visits to the Website There was no communication in April 	
14.0	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incident: The partner of Rosemary Robinson, the Plot holder on plot 59 had been strimming and used the mower to cut the grass. All the parked cars near to the plot were covered in grass and one of the cars had a window broken, likely from a stone. The mower had not been emptied or cleaned. DC emailed RR who was unaware that a window had been 	

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	<p>broken. She said that they emptied the mower but that another plot holder had then used the mower.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both parties were invited to attend the meeting to discuss this further, neither attended the meeting. The gentleman whose car was damaged has had to replace the door as cheaper than just getting a new window.• JY asked if people who borrow the equipment are told of safety use. John H said yes everyone is informed.• It was agreed that DC would include an item in the newsletter stating: ‘To be considerate when using the strimmer with no strimming near cars. If any damage caused you will be liable.	
	<p>Next Meetings 28th July 2024</p> <p>Suggested Future Meeting Dates: 29th September 2024 24th November 2024 26th January 2025</p>	