

MINUTES: SITE MEETING 7/2/2009

Meeting opened 10:05,

Present: Approx 12 Members, 5 Committee members (J Humphreys -chair, S Price, I Rosewood, P Stowe, M Wilson) plus 2 representatives from CRACIN

1. Introduction

1st open meeting so no formal minutes read, JH offered to chair the first meeting and take minutes

2. Finances

£1700+ had been collected in rent so far and deposited, a further £2000 income is anticipated based on last year's rent record.

Awaiting transfer of bank to new Treasurer, not able to audit the previous year's balance sheet due to lack of documentation, understand that the current account holds approx £1500.

1st payment of the 2009 annual rent, and 2008 water bills have been sent off, still outstanding is the NSALG membership and Insurance.

According to the rent book, last year virtually all usable plots were let, Some are anticipated to be vacated this year and there is currently a waiting list of around 15 names interested in joining.

Notice to be posted advising that rents due are to be paid by March 1st.

3. Incinerator plan

Members representing CRACIN (**Coalition for Recycling and Against Coventry Incinerator** <http://www.cracin.co.uk/index.html>) gave an overview of the proposal by Coventry Council to apply for permission to build a super incinerator on the redundant part of our site (formally plots taken for Phase three of the North-south road phase, but never constructed), and explained the reasons for their opposition to it.

Concerns are held by some members that some proposals suggest it encroaching on part of our site currently occupied, which as allotment land carries some protection but it would be necessary for us to have to campaign to prevent this happening. It was suggested that members should sign the petition, monitor the CRACIN site and that LRAA should join CRACIN. As members of NSALG we can call on their experience at protecting sites under development threat for guidance.

A meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30, February 16th 2009 at the council house, interested parties are encouraged to attend.

4. Site work

Proposals discussed:

- Christmas tree plots earmarked for the community garden would be better spent putting back into starter gardens, the idea was good but the pressure to provide gardens is greater. (*Action point: tree stumps and scrap needs clearing*)

- Main car park drainage needs sorting before next winter. Needs sloping off and somewhere for water to run off before hard surface can be laid (*Action point: SP and others to analyse best way to divert water away, cost materials and machinery needed*)
- Trackway in front of small gardens also needs some form of land drain. (*Action point: same as 2*)
- Water tanks, some are contaminated and need cleaning (*Action point: gardeners encouraged to empty tanks and clean out prior to filling, deadline May 1st*)
- Improve appearance of site: clean up main car park, paint trade hut out, clear front hedge, plant flowers and trees, and make the first car park more attractive and welcoming (*Action point; start clearing car park and frontage on Saturday mornings*)
- Enquire from council the cost of a council sign,
- Site clean-up; Encourage gardeners to spring clean their gardens of metal, rubble, glass, asbestos, barbed wire and other hazards. Propose designating areas where metal can be dumped for collection, rubble deposited that can be used for surfacing driveways. Skips needed to get rid of plastic and glass, Asbestos can't be dumped so has to be taken to the council tip and disposed of safely. (*Action point; areas to be designated for green waste and supplier asked to use them, designate other drop sites, Sacks and masks for Asbestos bagging to be purchased for the shop*)
- Names for drives? Ideas for naming drives and areas to give more character, make it easier for new gardeners to know their way around etc. IR offered to make signs in keeping with environment. (*Action point; thoughts for names by next meeting*)

5. Website

MW stated that the site is split in two; the LRAA site, and the forum in the section for any other Coventry allotment society to join up. Forum is gradually getting busier but need contributors for articles. Looking for companies interested in advertising for a modest fee, suggest that members with businesses make use to advertise their trades.

6. Events

Looking for activities or opportunities to run as other events, suggested continuing the seed and plant swap in May, Open day in August and AGM in October, use of the club for the EGM seemed popular so could be used for the AGM to make it a more social event. Other ideas included:

- Car Boot
- Barbecue
- Apple swap, games for kids
- Veg show
- Experts on site, guided tours,
- Awards and prize giving

Events should aim to cover costs, raise money and bring in positive publicity.

7. Site purchases

What communal equipment could be bought with any spare capital? Proposal to buy equipment that could be used to service the site that could be made available to loan out to gardeners for a nominal hire charge, suggestions so far;

- Strimmer
- Hedgecutter
- Ride on tractor mower with trailer
- Knapsack Sprayer
- Rotavator

Several gardeners offered use of their own equipment when not being used. *(Action point; check liability,y and approximate costing for each by next meeting to determine priority)*

8. Shop

Need ideas on what to sell currently not stocked and what to delete? Suggestions included pest proof netting, bird food (chicken and wild) and more reasonably priced herbicides. Should be open to passing trade, sign outside etc. *(Action point: JH to approach supplier for lists, JH and PS to price up best sellers based on records and place an order)*

9. AOB

- Need to hold supplies for toilets (loo roll, hand-soap, paper towels etc)
- First aid provision? Suggest gardeners carry kits with them, especially bringing young children on site,
- Primary school had asked if we would support their gardening club, info passed on to interested members
- Date for next meeting 7th March

Meeting closed 11:05