

ROMSEY ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held on Monday 16th January 2023
at The Comrades Club at 19.30hours**

Attendance

Carole Allen -Morley (CA-M), Bill Chandler (BC), Wayne Lawrence (WL), Jenny Fakes (JF), Stephen Treglown (ST), Alf Tilt (AT), Rob Hiley (RH), Julie Faccini (JF), Iain Messenger (IM), Joy Milligan (JM)

1) Apologies

Gemma Collins, Craig Findlater

2) Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting held on 14th November 2022 were unanimously approved.

3) Matters Arising

- a) Signage for Woodchip/Manure Bay and Metal Recycling Bay ready to be installed. (WL)
- b) Walnut tree has been cut down and most of the wood removed by Eastleigh Woodcutters Club. Romsey Woodcutters Club will be approached to see if they want the remainder. (CAM)
- c) Site Container - delivery is likely this month. (IM)
- d) Line item showing Forfeited Deposits in RAHA financial statement was requested and voted upon at the AGM. This will be shown as an input to funds in the books. (IM)

4) North Boundary Fence

RH talked to the Broadlands Estate about the fence repair/replacement. They specified the kind of fence they wanted, which was slightly more expensive, but helped with pruning and disposal of diseased trees. AT stated that AT, JF, ST, BC, RH and others spent two enjoyable days clearing vegetation and that the scheduled working party was not needed although there was a good response to appeal for volunteers. Fence work is scheduled to start this week. Work will take a few days. Preparation is now underway for the hedge laying (JF). Native shrubs will be purchased and then further volunteers required to help with planting in February (JF).

5) Rosemary Hedge Cutting

Committee Members agreed that the cutting of the rosemary hedge was upsetting for many allotment members and that the act did not align with the ethos of RAHA.

The responsible Committee member reiterated his apologies for the distress that he had caused.

The committee member stated that because he recognized the impact his actions had had on other allotment holders he agreed not to stand for reelection on the committee in October.

6) Finances

All the Membership fees have been received bar one. Congratulations to the Treasurer.

The cost for the fence installation is £3,500. The cost for hedging plants is around £500. This brings the cost of the fence to under the £5,000 budget agreed at the AGM.

The Broadlands Estate has indicated they would look at rent increase in March this year.

IM suggested that in this electronic age, it is easier for Members to pay rent by bank transfer and thereby not needing a Rent Day. If Members wanted a social event, a bar evening could be organized. This will be discussed at further meetings.

7) Waiting List

JF called all people on the Waiting List, and deleted those no longer interested in a plot. There are now 18 on the list, and hopefully time-wasters have gone! There are 3 members who would like more rods. CA-M reminded committee that it is a maximum of 10 rods per Member. Plot 95 is a group plot. ST has contacted local groups to find interest in renting it but -as yet -no replies. CA-M congratulated JF, ST and IM on their hard work with the Waiting List and lettings.

8) Plots Update

It was agreed that Plot 15 be reduced to 2 x 3 rods and thus releasing space for car parking. ST has proposed that plot inspections of the entire area are done every two months throughout the year instead of monthly during the growing season. Neglected plots will still be checked monthly. The proposal will be tried and reassessed after a year.

9) Grounds Maintenance Co-Ordinator Report

The unwanted shredded Christmas trees that were dumped in the Manure Bay have now been removed. ST noted that there was still some residual vegetation present. WL to contact the company that dumped it to have remainder removed. WL said there was good response from the appeal for a working party on Facebook. A further working party will be required for hedge planting. The road potholes are bad and will need repairing this Summer (WL)

10) Risk Assessment

Our risk assessments are due to be updated. Will be addressed at next meeting. CAM to send out.

Meeting closed at 20 45

2023 Diary Dates.

- 16th January Committee Meeting. (Monday)
- 6th March Committee Meeting. (Monday)
- 15th May Committee Meeting. (Monday)
- 17th July Committee Meeting. (Monday)
- 12th August RAHA Show. (Saturday)
- 4th September Committee Meeting. (Monday)
- 9th September Romsey Show. (Saturday)
- 16th October Annual General Meeting. (Monday)
- 21st October Rent Payment Day. (Saturday)
- 13th November Committee Meeting/New Committee. (Monday)