

Romsey Allotment Association Committee meeting

Monday 15th January 2024 7.30pm Comrades Club

Present: Carole Allen-Morley (Chair), Jules Facchini (Membership Secretary), Jenny Fakes, Alf Tilt, Deborah Sargent, Dave Watson & Shirley Dawson (Secretary)

1. Apologies: Wayne Lawrence (Estate Management Co-ordinator) Iain Messenger (Treasurer)

2. Minutes of last meeting Approved

3. Site Container

This is now on the plot waiting to be renovated

Thanks to Vincent Coutable, Edgar Dieselduffer, Christine Patterson, Jennifer Smith, Iain Messenger and Jules Facchini who cleared the site ready for the container. Thanks also to Pat and Denise Audoire for organising and Iain Messenger for paying for the transport of the container.

The Committee agreed priorities for the container are waterproofing and security. They allocated a budget of around £1000 to do this.

Carole to send out a date for a site meeting to discuss work needed to make container usable as soon as possible, in the most cost effective way. Involve **Alf, Dave** and **Wayne**. Repairs needed to roof to make watertight and drain properly. Needs painting inside with special rust proof paint, that will be expensive but will last. Also a good lock to prevent thefts.

Alf to look into locks suitable to secure container door e.g. motorbike lock.

Deb to research Paint sprayer, to make paint go farther.

Work party may be needed to help with tasks.

4. Entrance and Exit Gates

The Committee plans to make the gates easier and safer to close. If members close the gates, the Committee will look into the prospect of locking the gates.

Alf reported back with new price for moving entrance gate into the allotments to allow space for two stationary cars inside the allotment boundary, resetting the exit gates so they are plumb but NOT moving them in, and adding Jockey wheels to both gates. Cost £890 + VAT = £1068

Committee decided to move the entrance gates as that will make it possible for cars to come in off the road and bike path, away from the traffic, before Members open the gate. The exit gate posts will be reset, as they are not plumb. Jockey wheels will be added to both gates so they can be easily closed. The Committee voted NOT to move the exit gates in 1.5 metres, at an additional cost of £396+VAT with RAHA supplying the green chainlink fencing which we have available, for now, until we see if members close the gates. Committee made it clear

there is the option to move the exit gate next year if Members close the gates, and there is support at the AGM. Allotment holders will be asked to keep both the gates closed to prevent unauthorised users on site.

This was voted on and passed unanimously by the committee.

Alf to instruct fencer to start work and cost to be re-imbursed by treasurer.

5. Code of Conduct

Dave to research and draft a code of conduct for plot holders. Penalty for non compliance will be losing your plot.

6. Community Plot

Carole to contact Chris Bird about giving a talk with demonstration of Pruning using the community plot trees.

Discussed allowing Waiting List people to use the community plot but deferred this.

Working party needed for plot, date to be decided at committee meeting in March.

7. Web Site and Emails

Emails now working correctly.

Robbie downloaded a list of people who had applied for a plot over the past 9 years. Carole identified those whose application was 'lost' while the web site / email was not working (the last six months of 2023) and these have been added to the Waiting List. In a brief cross-check, she found about a third of the applications on Robbies list were never received by RAHA. **Carole** will do some cross referencing.

8. Thefts at Council Allotments and Ours

We have been contacted by the Council Allotments about the number of thefts we have had as they have had an increasing number over the past year.

Carole will email plot holders about notifying thefts with dates and plot numbers so we get a co-ordinated response. **Carole** to draw a plot map to mark thefts on with dates. Council allotments are doing the same. We will work with them to jointly report thefts. **Carole** to write a notice for the notice boards about reporting thefts. Since the council allotments are also considering installing a gate, **Carole** will give Alfs email to their Chair.

9. Finances

Deposits (untouchable)	£4200
Day to Day operational a/c	£6687.47
Remnant of Teachers B/S	£50.00
Total	£10937.47

All rents except 7 paid. **Jules** to contact remaining non-payers

Need to budget for:

- More road planings
- Skip
- Community Plot
- Container Renovation
- More equipment for loan to members (when have a secure place to store)

10.Waiting List

22 on the waiting List

3 Deferred

5 current plot holders

11.Plot Update

8 plots available

Dave, Carole and **Jules** to do Plot inspections in April

12. Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator Report

Wayne not present

a) Road Repair

Carole to ask **Wayne** to organise more road planings for use in the warmer weather (stick together in warmer weather). The present repairs are working well, especially in view of the exceptionally wet weather.

Look into buying a Wacker Plate for road maintainence **Dave** and **Alf** to research. Vote on at next meeting.

b) Pumps

Pumps not in use at the moment. We already have a video about priming the pumps. Need information about getting pumps ready for Spring. **Carole** to organise and distribute.

c) Hedge along back fence

Rob obtained more plants for free.

