

Romsey Allotment Association Committee Meeting

Monday 17th November 2025 7.30pm Comrades Club

Present: Eddie King (Meeting Lead), Iain Messenger (Treasurer) (arrived 8:15pm), Jules Facchini (Membership Secretary), Vincent Coutable (Grounds Maintenance Coordinator), Matthew Simpson (Secretary), Georgia Bird, Bill Chandler, Leena Dawes, Jenny Fakes, Alf Tilt.

1. Apologies

Carole Allen-Morley (Chair), Deborah Sargant

2. Welcome to New Members and Introductions

Georgia Bird, Leena Dawes and Eddie King were warmly welcomed to the Committee, and Eddie was thanked for chairing the first meeting of the year.

3. Approve Committee Minutes from 29th September 2025.

Minutes were approved by the Committee unanimously, with one correction (typo).

4. Approve AGM minutes from 27th October 2025.

Minutes were approved by the Committee unanimously, with one correction (typo).

5. Tool Hire

The process of tool hire was discussed in detail, including the practicalities of carrying this out. Concerns were raised about the storage of fuel in the container, safety of those using the equipment, appropriate training and if this is covered by our insurance. Although the Committee recognise that ultimately safe use of RAHA equipment is within the bounds of common sense it was agreed the details needed to be worked out before rentals can be undertaken. Actions were taken to check the insurance (Iain) and gather a liability notice (Alf), and we will discuss further at the next meeting. It was agreed that personal protective equipment and fuel would likely need to be provided by the individual hiring the tool.

6. Social Events

Leena has agreed to take a lead on organising social events after the success of last year and the wish of members at the AGM. A number of options were discussed including revisiting popular events from the previous year, and the possibility of trips to local attractions such as Hilliers. Initially the plan is:

- Wassail (January 10th)
- Chris Bird pruning workshop (if available)
- Coffee and Cake morning (April)
- Plant Swap (May 10th or 31st)
- BBQ (July/August)
- Open Day (August/September)

7. Container Roof

There are a few approaches available to repair the roof next Spring; a small working group consisting of Alf, Vincent and Eddie will review the different options available and report back to the Committee next meeting.

8. Code of Conduct Revisit

It's been agreed that the current Code of Conduct and wider Complaints Process could do with further development with the procedures and policy expanding to ensure it can be effectively implemented. Iain, Jules and Matthew will discuss further, with a view to repurposing an existing policy from another organisation.

9. Email Access and Administration

Since the AGM access issue to the *info@romesyallotments.org.uk* has been resolved, with both Jules and Carole able to access. Committee was happy that a rotating chair worked at the last meeting and today. This arrangement will be kept under review as meetings continue.

10. Pumps

Eddie has agreed to lead this area of work, with the support of other plot holders who have expertise in pump maintenance and installation. There was a further discussion on cost of pump washers, and the installation of additional pumps.

11. Woodchip on Exit Car Park

A comment at the AGM questioned why woodchip was used on the exit car park but was discouraged on paths between plots. The Committee agreed the car park was not part of an evacuation route, had a very different use to paths, and wood chip was fine to use there.

12. Skips

In line with the vote at the AGM the Committee will look to arrange a skip for the spring, with further discussion on practicalities and how to avoid abuse/fly tipping when the skip on site.

13. Plot Status

Since the AGM twelve plots have been leased out, with eight plots now available and eight people on the waiting list. The Association is still waiting for rent from 31 plot holders who are asked to pay as soon as possible.

The introduction of smaller starter plots for those who are unable to commit to a larger plot, as suggested at the AGM, was discussed. However, new holders almost always opt for a larger plot, so it may not be a popular option. This approach would increase administration, but is also financially beneficial due to the increased number of members (and membership fees). The Committee agreed to explore this with visitors at the planned Open Day, but to delay implementation for the time being.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the plot management process more widely, considering 28-day letters and the 12-week introductory period and the challenges of

managing plots more generally. It was agreed to revisit this at the next Committee meeting.

14. Finances

HSBC operating account is currently to c.£7,500, with fees still outstanding for 31 plot holders

The deposits balance stands at c.£5,300

It was agreed that a donation from the association of £150 would be made to the Comrades Club for use of their space for Committee meetings and the AGM in line with previous year. The Committee also confirmed an honorarium for Grounds Maintenance as per the AGM discussion, this is to be shared between Eddie and Vincent.

15. Any Other Business

a. Future Meeting Dates

Proposed Committee meeting dates for 2026:

- 19th January
- 9th March
- 18th May
- 13th July
- 7th September
- 16th November (new Committee)
- AGM will take place on 5th October
- Rent day will be 10th October

b. Manure/Woodchip Use

There was a very short discussion on fair use of manure/woodchip when taking from communal piles. We ask all association members to think of fellow plot-holders and to avoid being greedy.

Meeting closed at 9:30pm.

The next Committee meeting will take place January 19th 2026.