

Romsey Allotment Association Committee Meeting

Monday 19th January 2026 7.30pm Comrades Club

Present: Carole Allen-Morley (Chair, remote), Iain Messenger (Treasurer), Jules Facchini (Membership Secretary), Vincent Coutable (Grounds Maintenance Coordinator), Eddie King (Grounds Maintenance Coordinator), Matthew Simpson (Secretary), Georgia Bird, Bill Chandler, Leena Dawes, Jenny Fawkes, Deborah Sargant, Alf Tilt.

1. Apologies

None

2. Approve Committee Minutes from 17th November 2025.

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

3. Wassail Gathering

Wassail preparation was discussed, including strimming of Community Plot (Eddie), posters on Facebook and exit gate (Leena), and arrangements for heating cider. Leena flagged concerns regarding the event potentially being rained off as the weather still unclear at this point. Option of setting up a gazebo was also discussed along with other practical aspects of the event.

4. Code of Conduct

Iain has worked with Jules to review and update the Code of Conduct, building on the document previously put in place. The first step was to strengthen the wording and to specify that complaints are to be submitted in writing. The Committee reviewed the changes and unanimously agreed with the new wording and its intention of simplifying processes whilst making them more robust.

The next step is a review of the Complaints Procedure and to establish an Appeals Process, to be presented and discussed at future meetings.

5. Grounds Maintenance

a. Pumps

Eddie agreed to set up a WhatsApp group for those interested in helping with pump maintenance.

Before any further pumps are sunk, we need to know the location of services on site - Carole to provide Eddie with a map showing services locations.

Two pumps were flagged for immediate attention - one by the Community Plot and one on Plot 138.

b. Container Roof

After an on-site meeting and a test using expanding foam, the Committee agreed to use several coats of bitumen (after holes are filled) as the most cost-effective way to repair and seal the container roof. Eddie is able to provide brushes.

The Committee unanimously agreed to fund the proposed roof repair at a cost estimated at £200. Alf will confirm the volume of bitumen required, and the repair will proceed once the weather improves.

6. Plot Status

Jules confirmed that after a bumper couple of months 16 plots had been let. This leaves a further 4 plots available with a waiting list of 9 and an additional 4 members requesting additional rods. Only a couple of plots now have payments outstanding for the new growing year.

7. Finances

HSBC operating account is currently to £7,928.48 with the majority of fees now received.

The deposits balance stands at £5,380.13.

Membership and rent income are £4,483, with a further £380 in unclaimed deposits.

Broadlands rent of £2,000 paid, along with honorarium costs of £250 and Committee expenses of £193.41, in addition to a further £60 in returned deposits.

The Committee agreed the Ground Maintenance Honorarium to be set as £400 shared between Eddie and Vincent, to cover the period of 18 months to September 2027.

8. Social Media/ Website

A vote was held on including the following liability statement on the website:

“RAHA accepts no responsibility for injury, loss or damage to persons or property howsoever sustained within the confines of the allotments at Romsey Road Romsey.”

This passed unanimously.

Vincent has been added as an administrator of the Facebook Group, and Georgia has agreed to support both with Facebook and ensuring the website is updated.

9. Tool Hire

There was a further discussion regarding the practicalities and risks presented by hiring out tools in addition to the potential process required to make this happen.

The Committee then voted on whether they wished to proceed with tool hire, with a majority voting against it (2 for, 6 against, 3 abstain) based on the risk to the Association and its members of doing so, along with low demand for the service.

The existing tools will still be utilised, but for ground maintenance on the site.

10. Meeting Dates

The Committee decided to retain existing dates, having found remote arrangements had worked well in this meeting and as such there not being a need for all members to be present in person.

11. Any Other Business

a. Stephen Treglown

The Committee were saddened to hear of the passing of Stephen Treglown, a long-standing Association member and previous Committee member - he'll be missed by many amongst us. A card and donation will be arranged for his family on behalf of the Association.

b. Fly Tipping

Rubbish continues to be dumped on site, and it's clear this is often excused as "leaving items for others to claim". It is also becoming clear that people offsite are now copying this unhelpful habit.

Time limits and requests posted on Facebook are often ignored. The Committee decided should someone wish to offer an item up for taking, it should be posted on Facebook with identification. Failing to do so will be assumed to be fly tipping.

This passed with a majority voting in favour (8 for, 1 against, 2 abstain).

c. Seed Tub

There was a brief discussion regarding the seed tub, and the impact of sun exposure on seed viability, should it be moved somewhere cooler during the summer? No decision was reached.

d. Events

There was a short discussion regarding social wider events, and specifically the Open Day discussed at the AGM. The date for this has been provisionally set for the second weekend in July (11-12th).

Meeting closed at 9:00pm.

The next Committee meeting will take place March 9th 2026.