

Little Moor Allotments Committee Meeting 13 March 2024

Present – Ken F, Lesley G, Chris H, Dorothy R, Tony R, Liz B

Apologies – Sara G

Review of Actions from previous meeting

- Lesley still experiencing problems with the response to emails re wait list and will stress the importance of letting us know if contact details change.
- Chris will ask the Council for a breakdown of costs re legal/surveyor fees and speak to Bradley Rolfe. **ACTION - Chris**
- Dorothy has contacted Zurich re a quote for Employers Liability and is awaiting their response. **ACTION - Dorothy**
- We have looked at and decided not to make any changes to the Allotment Application form. If there are any concerns over the suitability of applicants to maintain their plot, Lesley will speak to the Chair.
- Lesley has spoken to the Surveyor re the maintenance of the Ilford Rd perimeter. The response was that he would check with the Highways Agency to see if they are willing to take it on. Until this is resolved, it was agreed we would not sign the proposed lease.

Chair's Report

- 2024/25 rents – a reminder to pay has been sent to the approx. 21 people who have not yet paid. It was noted that the Constitution says that if members have not paid their rent within 28 days of the deadline (by the end of March), they are deemed to have resigned their plot.
- A skip has been ordered for the Volunteer Day

Membership Report

- There are 18 on the Wait List. 5 emails have been sent re vacant plots but there has been no reply
- There are 3 vacant plots that need to be cleared of rubbish and/or trees before anyone will take them on – Plots 26, 90 **and ?** Of the others available, one will be offered to adjoining plot holders first (Plot 104) and the other may be divided into 2 (Plot 117).

Secretary's Report

- The Café on Newlands Road has offered us their coffee grounds. Chris will contact them re quantities and whether they would be willing to put them in a compost bin that we could place near the boundary with Newlands. **ACTION - Chris**
- We need more people to join the rota for the Trading Hut. Chris will email members.

- Chris has spoken to a possible volunteer re organising an Open Day in August (with the help of a team of people). Ideas so far include a talk from Hedgehog Rescue and a produce stall. She is thinking about it. **ACTION - Chris**
- We have still not heard from HMRC re registration. Chris will chase. **ACTION - Chris**
- Lease – we still have no feedback from the council but it’s in our interests not to push for a sign off. However, Chris will contact the other Allotments re meeting up to discuss concerns. **ACTION - Chris**

Comms Report

- Nothing to report

Treasurer’s Report

- £8,727 in the current account and £36,341 in the Savings Account. £5,000 will be moved into Savings.
- Several anomalies with the Rent payments were discussed and sorted.

Trading Hut Report

- We are now on Summer hours – 10.00 to 12.00
- Sales have been poor but that’s not surprising given the weather in Feb and March.
- Re the sale of the Oil Tank - one of our members looked at it and noticed that it had been punctured on the top. Decided that we could repair it and sell it as a “sold as seen”

Building & Structures Report

- Chris has approached one of our members about taking on this role and he may be interested. We need the email and documentation to be transferred from Mark F. Chris will chase. **ACTION - Chris**

Matters Arising

- Jobs for Tidy Up day include Blackthorn suckers to be planted along perimeter fencing to minimise climbing and Clearance of Plots
- Sunflower and Pumpkin prizes to be bought and distributed
- Rough Sleepers – Tony had met with the Changing Lives Representative. He wishes to speak to the Rough Sleepers direct and “in situ”. Tony agreed to meet with him again early in the morning or at night (though, of course, there is no guarantee that a rough sleeper will be there at the time). Tony will also pass on the Chair’s phone number as another contact. **ACTION - Tony**
- Personal Data requests – we need to ensure we have the correct emails and phone numbers of members. To do this we need to confirm that we

will act in accordance with the Data Protection Act. **QUESTION – who took this as an action?**

AOB

- Work in progress - Tony is making numbered plot signs so that each allotment has a consistent look and feel. Chris will inform members that they have to use this standard numbered sign, even if they have their own. **ACTION - Chris**
- Cleaning the Baths needs to be done before the water is turned on. Chris will email members. **ACTION - Chris**

Date of next meeting – Saturday 20 April and the Chair's house