

PRETORIA ROAD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 1st MARCH 2015 AT THE ALLOTMENT SITE

The 1st item on the agenda was the adoption of the minutes from our January meeting. After some discussion, it was agreed that a small amendment be made to item 6 and that the minutes could then be adopted and posted on our new website.

The next agenda item was the Calendar of events which Mike had made a start on. In Mike's absence we went ahead and put some detail in for the Easter event and the Bacon butty morning. It was agreed that the Easter event would be scheduled for Saturday 4th April. The day would comprise an Easter egg hunt for children (Eggs to be sourced), a Bacon and sausage session in the morning, a raffle and the opening of the shop to all comers. In the afternoon, tea and cakes will be made available. In addition Angie has suggested a best Easter bonnet competition.

The Bacon Butty morning arranged for May will be held on Saturday 23rd May and we will be offering bacon butties, sausages and tea or coffee. The shop will again be open to all comers.

Next, we discussed the new website. Everyone was advised that the site is now fully functional and ready to receive articles and documents etc. Roger explained that we can easily create a shortcut to the site on our PCs and agreed to send everyone details as to how to do this. Additionally Roger agreed to send everyone details of our email box and password.

Roger further agreed to create some posters, advertising the website, to be displayed around the site.

The next item on the agenda, was an update from Les on the proposed new composting bays. Les advised us that this project is in hand and he would discuss the matter of any extra materials needed with the builder. The builder is happy to proceed as soon as the condition of the ground permits.

Les also advised that it is hoped that both bays will be built this year.

Next on the agenda was an update from Larry on the refurbishment of the lean-to shed, for which we have been given a grant of money. Larry advised that the builder has some of the required materials on site and will make a start as soon as weather conditions permit. Larry went on to explain that the waste generated by this work, would largely comprise of soil, wood waste and etc and could be sorted and composted on site.

We then came to Angela's suggestion that we provide some form of outside heating for events taking place in cold weather. A discussion followed about types of heating and it was generally agreed that a Chimenia or similar would not be a good idea, as it would require someone to chop wood and a place for dry storage of same. Also some woods would give off toxic fumes.

Larry suggested electric heating and added that a good time to buy these would be at the end of the season, as many outlets reduce them then. It was agreed that we would return to this subject later in the year.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Darren raised the matter of a settee which has been left on our site and Les has agreed to take the matter up with the council. He will ask them to arrange removal of the item and try to obtain assurances that they do not intend using part of the allotment site as a “holding area” for rubbish.

Whilst we can accommodate a certain amount of allotment waste on the hard standing area near the metal storage containers, we do not want this to accumulate to an unreasonable level.

Derek has received complaints from plot holders, that machinery in the metal containers is difficult to get to, because of the temporary storage of the new compost containers. In response, Larry suggested we try to offer these to plot holders as soon as possible and that we should maybe put the bins out in the open at our Easter event, with a sign inviting plot holders to take one if they need extra compost storage on their plots.

Terry raised the question of the sowing of wild flower seeds etc., at the side and rear of the shed. Les responded by saying that this was something which could be done quite soon.

Our next scheduled meeting will be at 10.30 am on Sunday 3rd May.