

PRETORIA ROAD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 5TH JULY 2015 AT THE ALLOTMENT SITE

Apologies for absence: Terry Wall. Leon Ray

The 1st item on the agenda was the recent spate of vandalism and breaking into plot holders' tool boxes. The question raised was whether PTC were in a position to assist us with any claims and also, what are they doing to improve security generally. For the council, Lucy advised that items were only covered if kept in a locked shed and in any case, any claim would be subject to a £250 excess. Items stored on plots (even if locked in a box) are not covered by the insurance. PTC are to be approached by Les to find out when the bottom gate is to be repaired and made secure.

The next agenda item was regarding membership costs. The proposal was that membership rates should be shown in the schedule of rents, as being £15. It was further proposed that any member who makes payment by 1st October 2015, should receive a £10 discount on his/her membership rate. This was designed to address the problem which the Committee faces every year, where some members pay late and cause us a great deal of extra work and running around. This item was voted on and unanimously agreed to by those present. The proposal will be put to the members present at the AGM and voted on again.

Next, Larry has produced some suggested amendments to the Articles of the Constitution. Larry went through these with the Committee and we were all in agreement with them. These amendments will need to be voted on at the AGM.

The next item on the agenda, was the Patchway Festival Open Day. Posters are to be displayed prominently, advertising the Open Day. The Festival times are 1pm until 5pm and our Open Day times are to be 12 noon until 4pm. We will be offering bacon buttys, hot dogs, cream teas and a few cakes and biscuits. Also on offer will be tea, coffee and soft drinks. Derek agreed to source the scones etc.

Les mentioned the lady who has offered to clean the toilets and said that we should recognise this in some way. This was agreed to with the suggestion that we present her with a bottle of wine.

Mike has again volunteered to arrange delivery of the manure for this year. He pointed out that we need to get organised in advance of September. The supplier delivers double trailer loads in order to keep his costs down. Because of this, access might present some problems, so those that require manure must make adequate provision to allow delivery, as it will not be permitted to block paths etc, as it did last year. Signs will be displayed as soon as possible, showing prices and delivery dates with a cut off date for ordering.

Security of the site was discussed. We should lock up as a matter of course when leaving the site. On several occasions, the shed has been left unlocked and on at least one occasion, the lean to shed which contains the rotovator and mowers, was left unlocked overnight. We must not allow this to happen again and all Committee members have a duty to ensure that it does not. It was agreed that our personal signs should be in the box outside of the shop, so that plot holders can see who is on site and which plot they are on, in case they need the shop opened or need to hire the rotovator or use the mowers.

Next, we discussed the August Summer Party. Mike raised this and we are looking to organise a wine and cheese party. Saturday 29th August is the suggested date, starting at 4pm and running until around 6pm. Food will consist of snacks.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Norman said that Merlin would like to visit the site and meet some of the Committee, following their provision of the funds for the lean to shed. Thursday 16th July was the suggested date.

Larry suggested that the plastic taps on the water harvesting butts should be replaced as some are breaking up. The suggestion is that these should be replaced with brass taps and that adjustments should be made to the roofs to improve the run-off of rainwater. The cost is estimated to be at between £60 to £80. This idea was agreed upon by the Committee.

Norman suggested that we take measures to deal with the large dip in the ground near the entrance to the site, as it becomes very bad at certain times of the year. Les said he would look into this.

It was proposed that we put it to the vote at the AGM, as to whether we should seek permission for plot holders to build a shed or poly tunnel. If permission was given, the said items would have to be to a certain standard in order to avoid the site looking untidy. No home made items will be allowed. The Committee will look into a possible deal with a supplier, which would ensure we get some standard structures and not a ramshackle collection of varying ones.

Our next scheduled meeting will be at 10.30 am on Sunday 6th September.