

PRETORIA ROAD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Minutes of Extraordinary meeting held at the Pretoria Road site, Sunday 7th February 2016

Apologies: Norman Bradford, Angela Teakle

The meeting was called to discuss what we should do to move forward with composting areas and dealing with the problems caused by the dumping of waste from various plots, making the site look untidy and causing us problems with the local council.

We have been trying for some time, to obtain quotes for the construction of composting bays, but without much success. The secretary is in touch with two groups who might be prepared to partially fund the project, but they require three quotations before we can apply for funds.

Larry has been given one quotation, but this was for around £7,200 and the committee is of the opinion that this has been deliberately overpriced because the contractor in question doesn't really want the job.

We agreed that we should re-think the whole matter of composting on the site. This approach is because even if the bays were to be built, we would still have the problem of managing them and preventing plot holders from simply dumping waste with no thought to the composting process.

After much discussion, it was decided that we should utilise the area which had been earmarked for the building of one of the bays. This was formerly plot 52. Instead of building a bay, the whole plot could be used to create a composting area, with the waste being put into piles or heaps to speed up the decomposition. Once a year, we could spread the compost and then start the process over again.

By utilising this area and not building an actual bay, the committee will save a great deal of money and still be able to convert waste into usable compost.

Next we discussed the matter of taking down the original compost bays and dealing with the rubbish which has accumulated. In order to deal with this effectively, we need plot holders to stop dumping waste and start composting much more on their own plots. This is something which all who are serious gardeners should do as a matter of course.

Mike S informed us that the farmer who delivers our manure might be willing to use his machinery to spread and partially dig in the existing waste, once we have separated any woody and non-compostable materials from the waste. The woody etc., items would then be burnt on bonfire night.

Once we achieve this we will have to use signage to show people where to put any waste which they do not wish to compost on their plots. This will be monitored by the committee and anyone ignoring the signs, will be spoken to and told to move their waste to the proper area.

Larry is to arrange signage and produce samples for the committee's approval.

The matter of general waste was discussed and Les is to contact SITA and PTC to see if we can get a container provided, to serve the site and keep general waste under control.

We came to the following decisions:

We will approach the farmer and ask him to come and survey the waste situation and give us a price for spreading the waste properly. Ideally this visit and quote should take place before our next meeting on 6th March, so that we can make a final decision and set things in motion.

Les will make an approach to PTC to ask if they are willing to help us out with the necessary signage for the composting area and other signs plus additional signage to show that we are Pretoria Road Allotments. This will be displayed near the road, with an additional welcome sign at the entrance to the site.

We may need some containing barriers around the new composting area.

We could make a start on the signage for the new composting area, prior to receipt of any funding.

To approach SITA to ask for a general waste container specifically for our site.