

Pretoria Road Allotment Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at the allotment site on Sunday 6TH MAY 2018

Those present:- Les Brooks - Chairman
Mike Stinchcomb – Vice-Chairman
Roger Fussell - Secretary
Kelly Morgan-Ramseyer
Terry Wall
Ray Perthshire
Darren Bowden

Apologies for absence: Derek Howell, Norman Bradford, Diana Sidwell.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The minutes from our last meeting (25th March 2018) were adopted and signed off by the Chairman.

Item one. From Derek: Do we have to inform the membership that we hold their details on computer? This may be necessary to comply with new legislation coming into force on 25th May 2018.

Roger replied that he had looked into this and that whilst he was not an expert, it did certainly look as if we should inform members. Roger had prepared a letter to cover this and this was passed around to those present. Only one alteration was suggested. Terry thought the letter should include a note about “implicit agreement” to the holding of the records on computer. It was agreed that Roger would produce such a letter and send it to all members. It would be sent via email to all who have supplied us with this and by letter to all others, thus reducing our postage bill.

Item Two. From Mike: 1. Lyn Slocombe on plot 41b has complained about the long grass and dandelions growing on 42b (vacant currently) and wants us to do something about this.
2. Pete Saunders on plot 43a is complaining that the trees on 42a are casting shade on parts of his plot.
3. Can we arrange for a small team to erect the temporary gazebo and check that it is ok and that it will fit into the area near the raised beds?

Roger was able to reply to points 1 and 2. Plot 42b has now been rented and the new plot holder will attend to the grass and dandelions. Les has kindly agreed to lop the trees on 42a and overcome the problem of shade.

It was agreed that we would test out the gazebo in good time for the Patchway Festival Open Day. This will probably be done in the first week in June. In addition, we are to put up a notice about the fruit orchard inviting members to help themselves to fruit. This will be done a little later in the season, around the end of June. Mike will duplicate the notice on the website.

Item Three. From Roger: People are still dumping items in bins near the green waste site. These items are things which they should take home and dispose of in their household waste. Also the area near the bottom gate is again becoming a dumping site for both the council and others. Can we please ask Lucy if she can get her people to remove these items, including the bins near the green waste site?

Les replied that he will speak to Lucy and try to get some action on this matter.

AOB: Les has received an email from the Dry project and I reproduce it here.

eventbrite.com

DRY Weather and the allotment – what would you do on the allotment with less water? Tickets, Wed, May 23, 2018 at 10:00 AM

3-4 minutes

The workshop will be hosted by the NERC DRY (Drought Risk and You) project, the National Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association (NSALG) and About Drought (knowledge exchange about drought).

Background:

The DRY Project is keen to work with groups who may be the first to know of dry conditions in their communities: people who notice early when there is a lack of rain and when soils are dry - allotment holders are one such group!

We'd like to know your different ways of using water in growing food (e.g. across cultures), and the seasonal demands that different crops have for water.

Who will this workshop interest?

Allotment groups who have worked with the DRY project other 'growing' / 'food' groups, those interested in community adaptation to water risk and climate change, those involved in plant growing/horticulture in different ways, those involved in teaching, and others...

Your chance to:

Join people with similar interests for lively discussions at this interactive workshop, and a chance to share your views and experiences and contribute to ongoing research. A cartoonist will also be illustrating our discussions live!

Aims and outcomes:

At this workshop, we will:

- share story and videos developed with allotment holders and Allan Cavell, NSALG in the DRY (Drought Risk and You) project.
- ask 'What if' for different drought risk futures under different climate projections in the Bristol Frome catchment. We will share some of the new science on forecasting and prediction in easily accessible ways so we can think about what the implications might be for growing on allotments.
- explore together what we might do on an allotment with less water. What options are available?
- seek your advice about what sorts of resources would be useful as outcomes from the UK Drought and Water Scarcity research. What would be useful to allotment holders? (e.g. seasonal water advice; drought resistant planting).

FAQs

There is no cost for the workshop but we ask you to register by clicking this link by 18th May 2018. A buffet lunch will be provided so, if you have specific dietary requirements, please email dry@uwe.ac.uk.

For information on how to get to UWE Bristol please visit <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/about/visitus/howtofindus.aspx>

If you are coming by car you will need a parking space to be booked for you. Please email dry@uwe.ac.uk with your car registration details.

For more information on the DRY project <http://dryproject.co.uk>; NSALG www.nsalg.org.uk; and About Drought <http://aboutdrought.info/>

END

The problems in the kitchen have arisen again. People are using mugs to make tea and coffee, but are leaving them for others to wash up. We had this problem once before and it seems that lessons have not been learned.

It was agreed that Roger would put up an additional notice and see what happens over the following 10 days. If no improvement is evident, then the number of available mugs will be reduced to 10. If this does nothing, then mugs will be removed permanently and members will have to supply their own.

The kitchen is also being left in a mess on many occasions. This is down to pure laziness and the committee is fed up with the same few people having to keep it tidy. Come on folks, the kitchen is for everyone's benefit. Please treat it with some respect.

Terry asked about the fact that when the kitchen is shut, the yellow wheelbarrows are also locked up. Can we not leave them out?

It was agreed that the wheelbarrows would continue to be locked up when the kitchen was shut. Crackers Corner (Brian in Particular) went to great lengths to refurbish the wheelbarrows and we are not going to allow them to be left around the site, where they can be stolen.

On that note, the meeting was closed.