

Ashfield Allotment Association

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2011

Present

Eddie Wilson
Neil Davies
Petrina Tremain
Joe Roper
Teresa Wilson
John Morris
Ritchie Naylor

Apologies

Colin Langeveld and Daniel Barrington

Matters arising from October minutes

There were no matters arising as there was no meeting last month.

Correspondence

- Letter received from a plot holder complaining that some members have had help with their plots; the letter posed the question do all plot holders get help? After discussion with the committee the overall response was, the committee does not offer help with plots although there is no objection to a plot holder receiving help.
- Rent increases have been proposed by the council and the committee will be waiting to have the price increases to be confirmed.
- There is an arrangement for a skip to arrive Friday to remove the rubbish from the back of the plots that the council have cleared, after complaints from the neighbours at the back of plots 56 and 65. This skip has been hired by the council and designated for the rubbish that the council have cleared only. Any plot holders that can give a hand getting the rubbish to the skip would be much appreciated.
- Ritchie Ballard from plot 38 has asked the committee if he can have bees on his plot. The council have endorsed it, as there are five sites in Liverpool now with beehives. They consider bees helpful with pollination. Ritchie has asked his neighbours if they have any objections, there was only one who was concerned with the chance of being stung. A member from the bee-keeping institute will be asked to give a talk on the likelihood of this happening and help to allay those fears. John Morris proposed that Ritchie could go ahead with his plans to have bees on the plot and Ritchie Naylor seconded the proposal. The committee thought it might be in the best interests of plot holders to have anti histamine on hand in the first aid kit, in the likelihood of this happening.

Membership Report

- In October, there were two new applications for plots
- A Ashworth gave up half a plot 6 and returned his key for refund
- There was one new member
- Half plot six N Bishop and A masters - probation contract to 15/1/2012
- Total on waiting list = 48

Secretary's Report

- I think the AGM a success this year and well attended. The plot holders had their chance to have a say and give their intake and opinions on how the site is being run.
- A big welcome to Neil and Petrina as our new members, I know I speak for all the committee when I say, 'great to have new talent to add to our committee'.
- Things often go wrong and as a committee, we are honest enough to hold up our hands when things do. We are taking on board that the show should have cups and awards with the details of those who have won these awards engraved on the cups etc, also that the announcements of the winners should be given out early on in the show before every one leaves for home. The other compliant was regarding raffle ticket winners, these are now to be announced before the show has finished. We have a new show manager and welcome Petrina I am sure she will do her best to make the show successes as always. I hope that we can change things and try to suit all needs although that is not always possible.
- We were grateful to Paul Kennealy from plot 74 for having the security of the site in his interests. Thank goodness, our neighbours in the flats can have their eyes to the goings on at the site after dark when most of the thieving takes place.
- It would be a good idea to arrange a rota for the payment of rents. If we have this rota ready for December meeting, we can give out dates for rent collections.

Treasurer's Report

- It was mentioned by Petrina that the shop in Thingwall was well stocked compared to our shop. Another committee member pointed out that their shop was also well manned for selling such a good selection of products. John asked whether our shop prices were cross-referenced, Joe replied they were reviewed last January.
- Joe remarked that the water rates were quite high this year compared to last year.

AOB

- The price of a new rotavator was discussed; we are to look for a smaller rotavator, which we can hire out straight to the plot holder and charge by the hour. Ritchie is going to look on the internet at some price comparisons for small rotavators and have this information ready for the next meeting. Petrina has asked the committee to consider buying her rotavator
- Peter from plot 29 has asked permission for land drains at the back of his and plot 19. After some discussion, the committee considered it and permission was granted. Joe made the suggestion they maybe could erect a tank to store the water overflow.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 11th December at the secretary's house at 11am