

## Alers Road Leisure Gardens Association Committee Meeting Minutes - 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022

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Present	Apologies for Absence
Adrian Hawthorne – Chairman	Linda Hartard
Debra Collins – Secretary	Mary Harrison
John Hollands - Treasurer	
Eddy Haydon	
Roy Seymour	
John Young	
Richard Collins	
Ray Mitchell	

Min	Item	Action
<b>1.0</b>	<b>WELCOME</b>	
	Adrian welcomed every one to the meeting. Apologies given for Mary and Linda	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>OPEN ACCESS</b>	
	None	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Previous Meeting</b>	
	The minutes for the meeting held on the 12 June 2022 were agreed as a true record and signed by Adrian.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>CHAIR'S REPORT</b>	
	Adrian shared that he was not particularly coming down to the allotments as it is too hot to do anything, however needing to water morning and evening.  This is National Allotment Week. This came into being to promote Allotments but in the past years Allotments have become very popular and most sites are running a waiting list including ours.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>	
	John handed out a printed sheet of the accounts to all committee members present and explained the accounts. If further clarification is needed, please speak to John. The account sheets will be included with the minutes for the records.  John has paid the water bill of £2000, the bill was estimated. John checked the meter and it was about right. Adrian asked if we have any comparison from previous usage and bills. John explained not yet as the price increased and also the usage.  John shared that we are in a good financial position.  Equipment running costs are for petrol and lines for strimmers.	

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	<p>Will be invoicing the rents on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022, we continue to invoice 2p m<sup>2</sup> below the council rates. Adrian asked how many OOB residences we have and asked if we are able to give preferences to Bexley residences. John explained that our licence does not allow us to give preferences. Debra was not able to share the numbers of OOB plot holders, but will find out for the next meeting.</p>	Debra
<b>6.0</b>	<b>PLOTS REPORT</b>	
	<p>We have 17 on the Waiting list, this includes 5 current plot holders who are looking for the other half of their plots or neighbouring plots if they become available.</p> <p>I have spoken to Lakhwinder (Luki), regarding the crates and 2 concrete blocks that are blocking the path which his neighbour is responsible for. Luki has said that he plans to use them by the end of August. I will look again at the end of the month.</p> <p>I have spoken to Sophie regarding her plots. Sophie brought them back up to pass the cultivation re survey but sadly has not maintained. She still wants to keep the plots. I have advised her that there is another Cultivation Survey due and if her plots do not pass, she will need to give up one or both as we cant keep coming back to the same point.</p> <p>Eddy and Richard set a date for the cultivation survey – date agreed was 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022</p> <p>Ruxley in Bloom awards evening are on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Debra is unable to attend and asked if any other committee member would like to go to represent the site. Eddy said that he may be able to attend. Debra will respond to the email and let them know.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>SITE REPORT</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 wheelie bins of toilet waste have been spread on a plot</li> <li>• Sycamore tree at the end of the site to be removed. John has received a quote of £600 to remove it. John wrote to the council for permission. He has not received any response so is taking that to mean okay. John will start the process.</li> <li>• Block paving on the drive. John has contacted the guy who did it to have a look for a permanent solution as the ground around is getting churned up.</li> <li>• The sleepers on the manure areas are rotting and need looking at. Eddy said the one up from the shop is wobbly and worried it will fall. The committee approved for the work to be completed.</li> <li>• Neighbours have raised concerns around BBQ's during the current weather conditions. Debra asked if we could possibly place a ban on</li> </ul>	Debra

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	<p>any BBQ's until the weather changes. It was agreed by the all on the committee. Debra will put a shout out on the website and a notice on the gate and notice board. We will also suggest that the compost heaps are turned on a regular basis to prevent a build up of heat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water use: John Hollands spoke to the Water Regulation Authority. The Water Regulations fittings 1999 order is a lengthy document. John said that 2 things apply to us. <b>Dipping tanks</b> or the <b>Compression Tap</b> –this means there is a problem if someone attaches a hose directly to the piping or tank. This carries a fine from the supplier. The supplier has the authority to enforce the regulation (Thames Water).</li> <li>• Hose pipes discussed. Eddy said that no one is allowed to use a hose pipe. This is a grey area as we have nothing in writing to say they are in breach of the tenancy agreement and therefore we cannot threaten to evict or fine. Debra has emailed James at the local authority for evidence or rules in writing to aid us to enforce a hosepipe ban.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>MACHINERY</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All machinery is in working order. We did not need a new strimmer as able to fix the old one.</li> </ul>	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>FEDERATION REPORT</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John gave a presidential address to the last meeting</li> <li>• Regarding fostering a partnership with the council. A letter was sent to Janet Stone, Head of Leisure parks and open spaces. Janet replied that she would like to build a new partnership. There will be a new officer responsible for allotments in October. A date will be arranged for a working party to meet. JH felt this was a very positive response.</li> </ul>	
<b>10.0</b>	<b>WEBSITE</b>	
	<p><b>Web Statistics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the last 30 days there have been 20 visitors to the site, 15 new and 5 returning.</li> <li>• 3 new leads have been received.</li> <li>• Site activity was raised between August 5-11</li> <li>• Bounce rate 27.8%</li> <li>• Second most active page was 'taking up a plot'. First was Homepage.</li> </ul>	

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<b>11.0</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Communication – the allotment has a facebook account which we are not currently using. Maybe we could ask a member to pick it up and keep it going for us.</li><li>- Show: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022</li><li>- Short of a domestic judge. Roy said that he has the tea covered. Eddy asked if we could do a shout out for a domestic judge for the show. Debra offered to judge, would need to be there between 12 – 1pm. Eddy said that at the moment there were not many entrants particularly due to the weather.</li><li>- AGM to be held in March 2023</li></ul>	
	<b>Next Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TBA</li></ul>	