

Romsey Town Council Allotments Management **Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on the **20th March 2023**, at the Mayors Parlour, Romsey Town Hall, Romsey.

Those present: Mr Mike Nobbs, Mr John Waterman, Mr Roger House, Mrs Eleanor Vamplew, Mrs Lisa Fallowfield, Mr Elvin Mullinger, Ms Clementine Kingstone, Mr Chris Davies.

Apologies: Cllr. J Cairney.

3.1 The Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as read with the exception of point 2.8 where Roger's years of service should have been 37 and not 25 as reported.

Any matters arising will be discussed under various headings.

3.2 Correspondence:

3.2.1 James Lorimer Plot 105 was informed that weedkiller had been sprayed on his plot prior to his take up to eradicate the potential bamboo. With concerns as to toxicity and plant welfare, James wanted to know what exactly had been sprayed. JW confirmed this as 'standard' weedkiller.

3.2.2 Steve Houghton Plot 22 requested permission to erect a polytunnel. There has been much discussion about this and we agreed this would be limited to a maximum of 2 tunnels per plot of size 3m x 2m and to be placed on the south side of the plot.

3.3 Finance: Current assessment of financial situation is appended to rear of these minutes and shows little difference from prior apart from the previous month.

EV confirmed that 'Earmarked reserves' currently stands at £6000.00.

No future expenditure is planned at this stage but the committee will continue to bear in mind the condition of the roads, car parks and Distribution Centre.

3.4 Allotments: At present, all plots have been let whilst the current waiting list stands at 10.

EV suggested that those 'waiting' for a plot could, if requiring experience, assist with the plots which are in need of immediate attention.

There is some concern as to whether the water feed pipe from the meter through to our site is currently leaking. We need to ascertain from Howard where this is located.

There is an ongoing issue with Rats and whilst some committee members are happy to poison them, some are not due to the presence of raptors about the site which are known to predate them.

There was discussion, EV & RH, about the potential allocation of an area to allow woodchip and/ or manure be dumped on site for use by all holders. RH proposed that if a delivery is proposed then the plot holder responsible is present on site to accept that delivery and the pile of material is not just left somewhere causing hinderance and obstruction to other holders.

Car park surfacing studies are ongoing and to be reported upon in due course. It is proposed to utilise an interlocked plastic grid filled with gravel.

Given the amount of speeding vehicles encountered, CD suggested that the road/ trackway is left as-is, i.e., not repaired, as in its current state plot holders will not speed for fear of damaging their vehicles.

An introductory letter is to be produced for all new plot holders and as a reminder to present holders regarding closing of gate, bonfires as there are still ongoing issues.

The fly tipping of weeds across the fence at the southern boundary seems to have stopped, at present. It was suggested that we be all be vigilant to ensure this continues.

CD to write to Broadlands estate about the tree shading and height of hedge to the bottom half of the site.

RH suggested CD visit the 'Studio' in Dukes Mill, Broadwater road, for sign board costings.

3.5 Distribution Centre: The unused 48 Gallon water troughs still available in the centre for purchase.

Regarding the necessary repairs to the structure, CD to provide a report and prepare a specification for tender in due course. However, subsequent inspection has revealed that the roof appears to comprise asbestos cement which can be costly to remove.

The shop is open to tenants when Mike, plot 42 is on site or any other committee member if approached by a tenant.

3.6 Plot Assessment: First assessments for the coming year have commenced and data is available from JW of the first round of marking.

It was suggested that all committee members walk about and socialise with other plot holders.

3.7 Councillor's Report: None.

3.8 AOB:

It is understood that the 32 recently constructed allotments at Gangers farm/ Kings chase are to be run by a separate management committee under Romsey Town Council.

It was agreed that obtaining woodchip and pallets is to be left to the individual plot holders to arrange.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Chris Davies

Committee Secretary

Mike Nobbs

Chairman

Date ... ***20/04/2023***

Next meeting is proposed to be held on Monday 24th April, 2023, 7.45pm at Romsey Town Hall.

ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT

Statement of Income and Expenditure

05.04.2022 to 31.03.2023

Income	£	Expenditure	£	Budget £
Rents	3280.00	Broadland's Rent	1100.00	1100
Distribution Centre	99.50	Southern Water	780.00	750
		NSALG	55.00	55
		Card Reader Charges	1.00	
		Dist Centre Stock	245.00	180
		Stationery/Post/Sundries	89.92	
		Replacement Fencing	789.00	150
		Maintnenace/Equip	379.00	
		Hedge Cutting		220
		Rat Poison/Pest Control		250
		Skip Hire		
		Transf from EAR	-229.00	
		Transf from EAR	-789.00	
Totals	3379.50		3209.92	2705
Income less Expenditure	169.58			
Earmarked Reserve (ER)	7018	Cash in hand (b/f 04.22)	2.46	
Less:Fencing Cost	-789			
Less:Notice Board	-229			
	6000	Balance	2.46	

NOTES:

There are no outstanding loans for repayment.

Significant high spends (other than Broadland's Rent and Water bills) will continue to be funded by the Earmarked Reserve Account (EAR).