

Romford Smallholders Society

Minutes of monthly committee meeting held at Pretoria Road, Romford on 20 December 2011

Attended by Bob Roper, Daniel Smart, Bill Smart, Mr Balgobin, Kevin Smart, Jane Alborough, John Geary, Elma Ismail, April and Eric Mullen, James Bunting, Justine Smith, Kevin Gillard.

Apologies from Mr Sharma, Nigel Alborough

Meeting chaired and minuted by Bob Roper - meeting started at approximately 8pm

1. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 18 October 2011 read, corrected and agreed.
2. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2011 read, corrected and agreed .
3. Minutes of AGM held on 15 November 2011 read corrected and agreed,
4. Matters arising from (1) above - Daniel Smart to contact James Rose (LBH) to enquire about scalplings for roadways in the site. Daniel also to take forward enquiries about convex road safety mirror for roadway near Jubilee Avenue (CF)¹ . John Geary had not contacted Mr Balgobin over annual accounts audit.
5. Matters arising from (3) above. Noted that Principal officers are up for election at every AGM (RSS Rule 3.7)

Reports

6. Allotment Secretary (Daniel Smart) reported that 175 plots were now let to 134 plot holders. There are 23 people on our waiting list. The total number of members is 144. Daniel anticipate being able to offer most people on the waiting list a plot in the forthcoming year – letting day(s) to be arranged (CF) .
 - 6.1 Mr Balgobin proposed that if the site currently occupied by the Western Road Project became vacant that it be let to the ‘tree tops project’ – committee agreed.

¹ CF = Carried forward to next meeting

7. Treasurer's Report – Jane Alborough confirmed we had £4000 allocated for the proposed new container & water pump and also around £3000 that was ring fenced for projects for people with disabilities leaving the society with a useable fund of around £ 8,000. It was noted that £3, 660 in grant monies must be spent by 31/3/12.
- 7.1 Mr Balgobin wants to propose a new format for financial statements. Due to the very full agenda this will be carried forward to next meeting (CF)
8. New signatory for signing cheques – no action needed for the time being.
- 9 Proposal to move gates and rebuild toilets inside new site perimeter – introduced by Bill Smart who outlined proposal to rebuild toilet behind relocated perimeter fencing. Meeting adjourned while members went outside to see positions of proposed new building and fence line. Meeting resumed and after debate about feasibility of the new scheme the following motion was proposed; ***That the existing perimeter fence be moved to a new position by the end of the green container and to re-build the toilet block inside the new site boundary.*** Motion was agreed unanimously.
- 9.1 Bill Smart will take the lead on managing the project, he will produce a schedule of works. Will need substantial support through working parties (see dates below)
- 10 Update on installation of water pumps / new container / water supply pipes – informed container could now be found
- 11 Working party arrangements for 2012, agreed that initially dates would be set for January , 7th, 14th and 21st. Further dates would be set at the next committee meeting (CF) Environmental improvements (hedge planting etc) can be schedule in for February onwards.
- 12 Proposal to change all padlocks and re-issue keys – proposal outlined by Chair. Kevin Smart to take forward and check prices of keyed alike locks and keys and practical aspects of securing locks to chains to gates. (CF)
- 13 New Lease - still to be signed – Chair received letter forwarded from Bill Kinsey. Need two trustees, these confirmed as John Geary and Daniel Smart, Chair to CF
- 14 Chair proposed card and gift of £50 M&S voucher to Bill and Margaret Kinsey as Xmas gift and a thank you for long service. Agreed. Chair to sign card on behalf of Society. Justine Smith proposed card also for Olly – agreed – Chair to organise as before.
16. Brief discussion over water butts which had been gifted the Society. Apparently previous issue of water butts had been removed from site.

Decided that they would stay in store until matter discussed in greater detail and some form of recording / property marking to be put in place prior to distribution (CF)

Any other business not previously discussed

14. John Geary passed on Christmas card sent to Society by Andrew Rosindell MP
15. Jane Alborough reported recently finding prize cup on meeting room floor (!) asked if anyone knew of other cups.

Meeting ended at approximately 10pm .