

Quarry Road Allotments Association

Minutes of Quarry Road Allotments Association meeting held on Tuesday 12th July 2011 at the Allotment Cabin, 6:30pm

Present:

Committee members; Unal Metti, Helen Wright, Jill Hobson, Don Rutter, Richard Carr, John Chambers, Tim Place,

Additional members; Alan plot 14, Peter plot 86, Chris. and Chris Brown plot 99, Janice Cooney plot 86, John Pearson plot 89a, Fionnula Hatem plot 88a

Apologies: John Gray

1. **Unworked plots** - Various plot holders have been contacted and as a result 97a is to be re-allocated and John Pearson, from plot 89a, is to take over plot 13. Plot 10 is to be served an eviction notice.

Any current plot holder interested in moving plot should contact a member of the committee.

Letters are to be sent to plot holders where weeds are causing a concern to other plot holders.

2. **Steel container purchase** - a final decision was agreed and a container is to be purchased, to store equipment in for all plot holders to use. Unal Metti to organise this.

3. **Health and Safety** - John Chambers gave an update on the outcomes and generally people have carried out the proposals. Some people have queried why they have had to do it and it is because the association has a duty of care to everyone on site. John Chambers did outline reasons why, in a letter to every plot holder, but will explain further if asked. Do contact him through the allotment cabin post.

A query arose regarding fencing and it is the plot holder's responsibility to ensure that their plot has an adequate and safe boundary fence. This applies in particular to half plot holders who are sited nearest the track.

4. **Gate lock** - A new lock has now been fitted to the side gate. The combination remains the same as before. Unal to mark where to line up the numbers with his special pen. Please can it be locked after 6pm.
5. **Skip** - Various quotes have been obtained for a skip and Unal is to try and book it for Friday 5th August and ask for it to be sited at the middle cross roads.

Only materials that cannot be recycled to be placed in it please.

6. **Drainage and tracks** - these have nearly been completed. Many thanks to Don and Alan for doing the work. Also thanks to John Pearson for strimming the track boundary.
7. **Overhanging branches** - the council are to be contacted again to remind them of the work they have promised to do, so making the tracks clearer and making easier access for tractors and trailers delivering manure.

8. **Accounts update** - both accounts have a healthy balance. The accounts are to be audited in preparation for the AGM in October.

9. **Summer show**- Allotment show sub-committee meeting to be held this coming Sunday morning. Alan to borrow barbeque, Tim to print certificates. It will be judged this year by someone from Billingham. Please look at the notice boards for further information.

A.O.B. - Shop- catalogues to be obtained so every plot holder can order their own seeds for next year. The shop will close from the end of Sept. to Feb.

Insurance- Richard confirmed that our insurance was not due until January as he keeps being contacted by other insurance companies to re-new now.

Shed/greenhouse polytunnel requests- these were approved by the committee for plots 98, 88a and 13.

Mares Tail- a possible solution how to control it was given from Fionnula, plot 88a, see 'Tip of the month' on the notice board.

Preston Lane Allotments- Tim reported back on an open day he attended. Many different ideas are taking place, from trialing peat free compost to growing grafted tomatoes. Also Tim found out about some funding available so if anyone has any ideas can they please contact him through the allotment post.

Co-opted member- Don proposed that Alan Oliver, plot 14, be co-opted onto the allotment committee. This was agreed.

Chicken keeping area- this was agreed to now be sited on plot 7b as it is a more open area. The people interested are to build a secure site for the keeping of communal chickens.

Land rent- we are still awaiting to hear back from Mr. Turner, SBC, regarding the amount we owe.

Letter from Chris. Brown, plot 99 - Chris. reported a number of complaints she had heard regarding the conduct of the committee. Some of these have since been dealt with. The committee apologised for any misunderstandings and request that if any plot holder has any grievances that they bring them to the attention of a committee member, where they will be discussed at a committee meeting.

Vermin control- this is being carried out by trained people and is proving successful.

Meeting closed 8:15pm

Next meeting will be

Tues. 9th August 2011 6:30pm Allotment Cabin

All members are welcome to attend the meeting.