

# Hereford Allotment & Leisure Gardeners

## Site Rep Meeting Minutes

Date: 20th November 2023

Attendees: David Fletcher (DF), Malcolm Watkin (MW), Roland Brown (RB) Tasha Bennett (TB), Derek Mumford (DM), Val Simms (VS), Pauline Shannon (PS), Annie Jones (AJ), Sylvia Fletcher (SF), Jan Poole (JP), Chris Yapp (CY), John Rosser (JR), Vivienne Webster (VW), Roy Matthews (RM), Helen Cooper-Bennett (HCB)

Apologies: Mick Paine (MP), Jo Sims (JS)

Absent:

Chair: Pauline Shannon (PS)

Previous minutes: All OK.

### Site rep reports by exception

**Ash:** Update from PS:

- Water reading 840
- Review of plots - all looking reasonable, some better than others.
- Have emptied hot bin which has stalled as someone has been putting large roots with soil and whole beetroot in it which have stuck halfway down. PS will start it again in February/March. it's stored securely in the toilet block.
- Water has been switched off and the toilet closed.
- A plot holder is giving up ½ plot would be a good starter plot for someone.
- Two plots where gentlemens wives are very poorly but would like to keep the plots so the site rep will just keep an eye on them.

**College:** Site rep unable to attend.:

- Water reading

**Corporation:** Update from VW:

- Water reading 01668.
- Site looks tidy.
- Couple of empty plots. DM going through list of names.

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- DM and RM look after the hot bin.

### **Drybridge:** Update from HCB:

- Water reading: 01834 water turned off.
- Grass has not been cut. It's very wet on site .
- The first vehicle got stuck so HCB has put a note on gate for no vehicle access.
- Plot 21b has been transformed. The new plot holders have worked so hard.
- Two huge loads of plastic went to the council tip. Thank you Caroline.
- Two big trailers full went to local bonfires. Thank you DM.
- One load went to scrap metal. Thank you Caroline.
  - £20 given to Caroline for fuel for the three trips she took.
  - £9.70 has gone in the pot to purchase fuel for mowers / strimmer when needed.
- Lots of work on plots before the winter.
- Plot 31 and 1b are changing. HCB has been verbally told and just waiting on them to finish moving personal property. I have new people ready to join us.
- The children of our lady's have written letters asking if they can visit in the spring.

### **Eign:** Update from CY:

- Water reading: Water turned off prior to October meeting.
- All running OK
- CY is only person using the hot bin at the moment.
- CY has cut the hedge and put the leaves into the hot bin.
- Concerns about one plot. The person who is working the plot is not the person who CY let the plot to.
- TB to send CY current site list.
- Toilet has been cleaned.

### **Holmer:** Update from MW:

- Water reading 3948 water turned off skate park: 0005 (new meter installed).
- Couple of plots let.

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- Scalpings been ordered from contractor for Holmer as need a lot due to large pot holes. Will order the same for Wordsworth - VS agreed.

### **Rockfield:** Update from DF:

- Water reading: Water has been turned off before October's meeting.
- Plot 30b let.
- Some plots ready to re-let.
- Toilet fan - panel has been received DM will fit.
- Quote required for hedge - MW will speak with contractor.
- Two plot holders definitely not renewing and 3 plot holders renewing on a new plot - SF & DF will send a list of who is not renewing and who is moving.
- 3 sheets to be removed site. A company will need to come and assess first. VS will make contact with them.

### **Westfaling:** Update from RB:

- Water reading 01055 - water is switched off.
- Site ok
- Grass long
- Had manure delivered which was quickly used by plot holders.

### **Wordsworth:** Update from MW:

- Meter reading 5678.
- 3 plots have been let. Possibly another 2 plots are on about moving.
- Reasonably tidy.
- Waiting for contractor to come around and do the hedges.
- Can't really do another grass cut as yet as too wet.

### **AOB:**

- PS requested that all site reps notify VS of any plot changes they know of by second week of December. Rent demands will go out beginning of January like they have for last few years.

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- Summer judging criteria suggested changes for site reps:
  - DM passed around his suggestions for site reps to review
  - JR water retention has to be enough for the plot - to get maximum points.
  - JR paths - judging has always been how wide, clear the edges are and if weed through but what do you do if slabs or alternative paths. Can't give maximum points to someone with slabbed path opposed to someone who needs to cut grass paths every week.
  - JR we need to some guidance as to what goes against it each.
  - JR would like to see cabbages removed from list and brassicas in each place and changed from 5 points to 15 points.
  - PS on previous list had lots of different vegetables, can we group some of these as people who have half plots would not be able to grow everything on that list.
  - JR - concerns of full and half plots are understood but it's not the amount it's the quality.
  - JR need to bring judging forward in season to allow for peas and broadbeans as often already gone by the time judging is taking place.
  - JR feels would be beneficial for reps to have a session with judge so they know exactly how the points are accrued.
  - JR if make it too wide and takes longer to judge it will be unfair if there is a week or 10 days between judging first and last site.
  - JR can we think of something to encourage people to put their plots in for judging. Judging is about raising the standard of plots. Suggest site reps to select the plots to be judged in addition to plot holders putting their own plots in.
- PS and DM asked site reps that if they have any suggestions or thoughts about judging to email TB by end of December as we'd like to finalise the the judging criteria by end of January to make plot holders aware.

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- DF advised a lot of chippings have been left at Rockfield and if anyone wants any to help themselves.
- MW - Yacon plants are being grown on one of the sites. Defra last year banned the import of yacon plants back to the UK due to issues they have had with plants. Defra concerns are that they will spoil the crops grown in the UK. Options - (1) Bury at least 2 mtrs deep. (2) Burn it all off and all embers go to landfill. (3) Cut it all up and take to landfill - it must go to landfill not to compost / recycle. It cannot be grown on any of our sites.

END OF MEETING

Next Meeting: Monday 15th January 2024 @ 18:30 at Hereford Welsh Club.