

Minutes of meeting at: Staines Rugby Club

19th April 2007

Chairman: Mr Keith Hitchman
Chairman Of Meetings: Mr Christopher Hill
Members Secretary: Mr John Treadwell
Minutes Secretary: Miss Dawn Johnston
Treasurer: Mrs Pat Johnston

Date 19th April 2007 held at Staines Rugby Club at 7pm

Present Keith, Pat, Dawn, Dawn, Mick, Chris, John, Tonia, Darryl, Denise, Julie, Joyce, Diane, Clare, Chris, Kanwhal, Terry, Gwen, Colin, Mel & Tim

Apologies Julie, George, Tammy, Dave, Ann & Ian

Matters Arising From Last Meeting:

- Thanks to everyone who attended the clean up day, it is much appreciated.
- Membership update; List of members details still being compiled.
- Security update; Gaps in the fence were secured during the clean up day. CIP will let us know a date for the gate to be installed. After general discussion, our rhino gate will go on the road side in front of the council gate to hopefully prohibit flytippers.
- Renewal of NSALG and others; we will be rejoining NSALG as they are very beneficial, they offer discounted seeds, quarterly magazines, insurance scheme & legal advice. Also registering with the regeneration of allotment initiatives. Looked into garden organic, offer free advice, free organic gardens to visit, reduced cost on courses, quarterly magazines and reduced seeds-undecided yet. Not joining RHS as nothing specific to offer allotmenters.
- Feedback on clean-up day; Again thanks to everyone who attended, notably Darryl for putting up the wind turbine. Next clean up evening is May 20th, ideas needed. We aim to do the car park area. General discussion was had on clean up and how to encourage attendance (amendment to constitution, all members to do at least 2 hours a year clean up). Mick has arranged for a scrap metal man to come and take metal away. When we have enough rubbish we will attempt to get a council skip, but may end up paying for our own.
- Pest control; We have rats, a plot holder works for Rentokill and will provide safe boxes and also monitor them. All agreed, motion passed and seconded (Keith & Pat).
- Communal compost area; we have a smaller new area, Chris advised not to put large pieces of wood on it, bindweed, nor tomato or potato plants (due to potential blight), Horsetail, Ragwort, Green Alconet. Nettles, Comfrey and little weeds are acceptable. If in doubt see Chris. Last year we received newsletters from DEFRA asking to keep an eye out for certain bugs that arrive via the airport, if we receive more this year they will be posted on the noticeboard.
- Road & carparking; Please leave a metre in front of your plot to help reinforce the road boundary and keep our new road in place. Keith and Terry to note plots that are affected. Terry to give price on road.

- Competitions this year; prizes to be given on the 23rd September at the Social for: -
 - A) Tallest Sunflower
 - B) Best Scarecrow
 - C) Longest Marrow
 - D) Widest Tomato
 - E) Biggest Onion

- If the Association closes, what to do with the monies? - ideas to be put forward and voted on next meeting. General idea is to give the monies to a charity to do with gardening or kids.

Any Other Business

- Another signature required for the building society account. John Tradwell (members secretary) put forward by Keith. All voted and agreed.
- George & Tammy are collecting milk carton tops (screw caps from plastic bottles) please try to keep and give to them, its for charity.
- Rules were discussed. Hounslow has no officer and doesn't enforce the general rules for allotments. We agreed that we would prefer to remain a flexible relaxed organisation, not liking to enforce rules too much. After discussion on loud music being played in vehicles we were reminded that we should all be aware of others and be respectful of the tranquil environment of the allotment.

Meeting was closed after arranging next meeting which will be held on Thursday, 24th May at 7pm at the Staines Rugby Club.