



Scruton Allotments Association

Station Road, Scruton, Northallerton, DL7 0QN

www.scrutonallotments.org.uk

info@scutonallotments.org.uk

Meeting Minutes held at East Grange House 9th April 2024.

Present: Richard Zealley, Elizabeth Davies, Joe Lofthouse, Andrew Venus

Apologies: John Vickers, Ian Powell

1. Finance Update

All rents from plots have been received and rent for the Association paid to Malcolm Barker. In the two accounts that the Association hold there is approximately £2,200.00 in credit.

2. Plots

Two plots are now empty with a third filled by Kristian Thomas. The empty plots will be advertised on a mail chimp and in the Scruton News letter.

3. Work Parties

Jobs to be done in the near future include:

- A. Move Erics shed to be in line with other plot holder sheds next to the hedge.
- B. Erect the notice board and Chris Snell memorial plaque at the entrance to the plots as part of...
- C. Build a post and rail fence to the side of the field gate leading into the plots with a gap for barrows to pass next to the field ditch.
- D. Repairs to the circumference fence

Work parties will be scheduled in advance and volunteers sought to attend jobs. The first work party is scheduled for Sunday 28 April (depending on weather) and then for the last Sunday in each month. An Association What's App group will be used to advertise and confirm work party details.
(Action: Richard Zealley)

4. Grass Clippings and Bonfire

Grass clippings are not to be deposited in the compost bins built along the fence next to the cricket pitch and tennis court. All grass clippings are to be deposited on the compost pile to the rear of the communal shed next to the drainage ditch. There are two piles there. One is a bonfire and the other for grass clippings and other compostable material.

5. Manure

Kevin Proctor will be able to deliver well-rotted manure to the compost bins as soon as access is possible and arranged. (Richard Zealley to arrange with Malcolm Barker)

The compost delivered by Malcolm Barker is to remain where it is as it is fresh and will require to rot down over the summer. This will be transferred to the bins to replenish the manure delivered by Kevin Proctor over next winter.



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6. Kevin Proctor's Plot

The plot donated by Kevin Proctor to the Association is very large and given the constraints on plot holders to manage their own plots it was decided that Kevin Proctors plot would be used for generating cash for the allotment association by planting low maintenance cash crops. Ideas put forward included planting Xmas trees on a rotational basis over the next 4 years to provide a supply of Xmas trees for the village. Pumpkins for Halloween. A nursery on a small scale for sale to the village.

The plot is currently overgrown and will need to be cleared and rotovated. This will not happen in time to plant crops for this year but trees could be planted this winter and Nursery plants put in next Spring along with Pumpkins for next year's Halloween. It was suggested that Kevin Proctor had agreed to clear the plot and rotovate it. Thereafter Association members will have to become involved to tend the plot.

7. Gardeners' Question Time 18 April

- Joe Lofthouse agreed to design and print out 10 copies of a poster to advertise the event to be distributed and posted in high traffic local areas.
- The event will include the following:
- Raffle Run by Lynda Venus: 1st prize - guided tour for two of Harlow Carr, 2nd prize - 2 tickets to visit Harlow Carr, 2 prizes of gardening equipment (Gloves and trowel), 2 prizes of one bottle of wine
- Bar Run by Syd Nye. This will set up in the Kitchen and served through the hatch to include wine, beer and soft drinks. Each ticket holder will receive one free drink.
- Nibbles, note pads and pens supplied by Elizabeth Davies to be set on on each table.
- 3 Speakers are identified to include a mystery guest. This will include a talk on Harlow Carr
- Tickets on the door controlled by Richard Zealley.

Timings:

18:00 Set up the village Hall with tables chair and table cloths
19:00 Doors open
19:15 Introductions and briefing to the audience of the evenings proceedings and opening remarks by the panellists
19:45 Questions from the audience written on paper read out for the panel to answer.
20:30 Break and Raffle
20:45 Restart for round 2 of gardeners questions
21:30 Finish and issue of remaining Potatoes and bags for the Potato competition
22:00 Pack up clean up and lock up



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8. AOB

An idea was floated that the Association could have an annual competition for the “Best Kept Plot” to include side competitions for various categories of vegetable and flowers with small prizes for the winners. Competition entrance fees were also mentioned. In addition, with a view to raising funds, a small stall to be set up by the main entrance gate where any surplus vegetables could be left by plot holders for people to buy through an honesty box with donations.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 20:40 and the date for the next meeting was decided as being 14 May at 19:00 Location TBD.