

LWCG committee meeting minutes. Monday 19th Aug 2013 7.30pm

People present:

Pete West, Ken Dorning, Mike Hutchinson, Lori Kitchin

Apologies:

Anna Clark, Neale Gibson

Agenda:

- 1) Members present
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Minutes from previous meeting
- 4) Matters arising
- 5) Potential Issues to Raise with Allotments Officer
 - a. Fourth plot
 - b. Paths
 - c. Hedges
 - d. Six adjacent stat allotments
 - e. Water (metered to WBAS?)
 - f. Ponds
 - g. Cleared area and tree planting
- 6) Site issues
 - a. Height of hedges
 - b. Sharing produce
 - c. BBQ with WBAS
 - d. Secure area
 - e. Work Days
- 7) AOB
- 8) Date of next meeting

Discussions:

- From last minutes – we should change calling campfire area to social/meeting area.
- The Graves Trust grant will be put on hold at present as we missed deadline for this quarter but also need to look at what is required for social/meeting area as have table/chairs now i.e. more detail around what we want to spend money on.
- 5a. Fourth plot is not cultivatable as too wet so to be managed as a wildlife area. We do not want to pay for this. Expecting not to be billed until April.
- 5b. Paths – there are no building regulations that we need to adhere to. Agreed that path would come across plot 1 to social/meeting area, and down to plot 2. We will do ourselves – approx. Need 1 ton of sand, 1 ton of gravel, 42m netpave. Plan to do in the autumn – late Sept/Oct. We can use blocks/bricks within the plot area, earth, plastic sheets for aggregate.
- 5c. Hedging group and 6a. Height of hedges – Steve had asked regarding us cutting hedges in surrounding areas or doing a sponsored hedge trim with traditional tools. The group would be interested in maintaining other areas but need to have discussions with the council first. The cutting of the hedges with traditional tools could be useful as an educational day.
- Surrounding hedges and trees:
 - o Hedge by path – trim back on inside – leave some height for archway over path.
 - o Bottom hedge – retain as is – could have clearer path eventually from plots 1-3 to plot 4
 - o Top hedge by plot 1 – trim insides
 - o Far boundary (by willow) – repair stone wall, everything else left for den and social/meeting area.
 - o Sycamore in top corner to be cut down to manageable size or removed (plus horse chestnut just in front of it)
 - o 3 sycamores on top boundary to be cut back to manageable size
 - o 2 oaks in plot 1 to be left alone

- 5d. Six adjacent stat allotments – to ask Ceri are they going to come back into use. What are the plans for maintaining the paths, hedges etc.
- 5e. Water – need to discuss with Dan not Ceri
- 5f. Ponds – mention to Ceri that we would like to possibly extend the Pond within the wildlife area. Mission for a work day.
- 5g. Cleared area and tree planting – Can we plant some fruit trees in the cleared area. Dig holes when wet, use geotextile around the tree and thin layer of soil from our plots. Could we put a willow tree in allotment down from pond/wildlife area. Could raise as potential to take on a 5th plot and include as a wildlife area.
- 6b. For this season, email out to members to tell them which produce ready. We will need those persons who have individual plots to mark them clearly so produce not taken from here. We can have some produce available on work days for people.
- 6c. BBQ with WBAS – BBQ will be Sunday 22nd September from 2pm with food at 3pm. Cost: £3 for adults, £1.50 children. There will be a drink and a burger/sausage in a bun included in the cost. Food donations are welcome. There will be a cake competition (best tasting) - £1 entry and some items for sale. May have a raffle also if we can get local businesses to donate prizes. Lori has an old BBQ we can use. Annie has also been making one in allotment hut.
- 6d. Secure area – can we get access to the paraffin store. Discuss terms with Dan. We could discuss the wider secure area with the council – do we have to pay for – other allotments have gated areas.
- 6e. Work days
 - o 31st Aug/1st Sept – work on social/meeting area
 - o 14th Sept/15th Sept – if req'd finish work on social/meeting area in prep for BBQ
 - o 22nd Sept – BBQ
 - o 5th/6th Oct – Pond area/ hedge cutting
- AOB
 - o Grow Sheffield talk – how to raise funds – Mike going to try and make.
 - o Need to discuss priorities for funding e.g. rent, insurance etc.
 - o Briefly talked about labelling items correctly with perhaps larger information boards stating name, when was sown, when to pick etc.
- Next meeting – Monday 16th Sept 7:30pm on site

Actions:

- Mike to arrange visit from Ceri and take forward points above.
- Mike to speak to Dan regarding the water from the hut
- Anna to email individual plot holders to get them to mark their plots so produce not taken from them.
- Ken to advise Anna of what produce is ready for email to go out to group if people want to take some produce
- Pete will do poster to advertise BBQ and put up around the allotment boards in surrounding area.
- Anna to email details of BBQ (can get poster from Pete to send out) to all members and WBAS (via Dan).
- Lori to go round local businesses for raffle prizes.
- Anna to email work days out.