

COMAS Open Meeting

Tuesday 17th July 2018, 19:00, Brunswick Church

Present

Tidjani Adamou		Margaret Jamieson	
Salih Ayan		Ian Jamieson	
Steve Bowers		Lee McMellon	
Craig Eastham	<i>Secretary</i>	Tom Reed	
Gordon Flear	<i>Treasurer</i>	Shewly Saquib	
Tom Forrest		Andrea Szabo	
Zoe Hopkins		Sharon Thomas	
Swen Ivo		Martin Toal	<i>Chair</i>

Apologies

Mavis Smitheman

1. Chair's report

- a. The Chair explained that the Meanwhile Site is now closed, and its clearance is almost complete.
- b. The new allotments are due in September 2018.
- c. Most of the activity that was going on in the Meanwhile Site has been transferred to Elizabeth Yarwood Court (EYC). There are still weekly gardening sessions at 18:00 with peas, green and broad beans, salad leaves, courgettes and runner beans being grown. The growing success has been varied.
- d. The Proud Trust has done only a few things at their allotment.
- e. COMAS has had a presence at two events: Medlock Primary School Fair on Saturday 23rd June, where seeds were offered, and the Festival of Ageing held at EYC on Wednesday 4th July, where tomato plants were offered to people.
- f. A concern was raised about raised beds at the new allotment site. Margaret confirmed that two of them will be in use for those with disabilities.

2. Treasurer's report

Gordon gave an update on the bank account. Gordon and Martin are now signatories. There's About £1,500 in the account. £1,000 of which is for the TransPennine project. The only expenses have been room hire, a new wheel for the wheelbarrow, and a small plastic greenhouse (£164 in total).

3. Update on allotment charges and plot allocation

- a. Sharon Thomas of S4B has no final announcement on annual rental charge for the new plots.
- b. Tom referred to another allotment and the setup there and said that was how all allotments in the city must be. However, S4B are not obliged to do exactly as the other allotments.
- c. Gordon expressed concern that delays were making people lose heart with the society. The secretary will contact councillor Bernard Priest to see if we can get an exact rent charge within two weeks.
- d. There was a need for transparency in the plot allocation meeting. One thing is clear – priority will be given to those residents without a garden of their own – but what about other priorities?

4. New growing project

A new site will be developed jointly by COMAS and Friends of Gartside Gardens and Green Spaces (FOGGGS) incorporating vegetables and flowers. COMAS will contribute by moving its remaining raised beds and soil from the Meanwhile Site. The site is located by the side of Gartside Gardens next to Cray Walk.

5. Any other business

- a. The driveway raised bed project was mentioned. One resident asked for one.
- b. Martin mentioned the forthcoming visit to Skelmersdale on Wednesday 25th July. Arranged by Growing Manchester, it is a field trip to study the allotment and community set-up there. Any COMAS members can come along.
- c. There's an upcoming visit to Miles Platting on Thursday 26th July to see the allotments and community centre in the area. People were encouraged to join us.
- d. There will be an Active Streets event on Beamish Close on Wednesday 1st August.