

Minutes for COMAS Open Meeting

Tuesday, 16th June 2020 via Zoom Video Conference App

Present

Jacynth		Margaret Jamieson	<i>Secretary</i>
Salih Ayan		Joanne Maylott	
Mo Blue		Abdul Rahman	
Craig Eastham		Neal Roberts	
Gordon Flear	<i>Treasurer</i>	Sharon Thomas	
Zoe Hopkins	<i>Committee</i>	Martin Toal	<i>Chair</i>

1. Reports

- a. Martin opened the Zoom meeting and welcomed everyone before reading the Chair's report. This had two themes: the emphasis on food growing in each plot at the allotments, and the Electricity Project update to bring electricity to the Portacabin. COMAS now has secured funding for this project.
- b. This was followed by the financial report given by Gordon. He supplied the following figures for banked cash:

£440	Unrestricted – noting that electricity and water payments will be required later this year.
£818	Restricted fund to be spent on plants for green areas in the locality.
£1,404	Restricted fund for improvements to the Portacabin – replacement door and ramp being sourced.
£1,800	Restricted fund to begin providing electricity to site.

He ended his report by asking the plot holders to think of anything we need to provide to help them with their plots.

2. Sites

a. Cray Walk

- i. We have managed to move some plants over from Elizabeth Yarwood Court (EYC) and intend to build more raised beds in the autumn.

- ii. Craig asked why the Council is only letting us use one half of the site. Martin explained that they want to be sure we could maintain our side before offering us the other side as well.

b. Elizabeth Yarwood Court

- i. All the beds are in use growing produce. The raspberries are doing especially well, and we had a good crop from the rhubarb.
- ii. We hope to be able to move some of the shrubs to Cray Walk in the autumn or, failing that, get cuttings.
- iii. Gordon asked if anyone knew of any green spaces that we could use to site plants, for which we could use some of the restricted funds. We would then have to get agreement from the authorities.

c. Hartfield Close

- i. The shed to house the mowers for S4B is waiting to be erected once the site is made level.
- ii. Craig asked if any progress about transporting the composting toilet to the site. We explained that has been delayed due to the coronavirus lockdown and we also are wondering where to site it.
- iii. There have been questions about the lack of use on some plots. Some of this has been due to self-isolation, thus, the inability to tend to one's plot. The Committee is growing produce on these sites on these people's behalf. We will make our recommendations about renewing these sites to S4B when the tenancies are due for renewal. We have suggested some people may like to share a plot if they cannot maintain it on their own.
- iv. Sharon talked about the filming which took place at Hartfield close last week.

3. Any Other Business

- a. Mo explained about the *Let's Grow Plants at Home* project by Buzz, the Health and Social Care initiative, where seeds and compost are provided to people wishing to take part. We will discuss with Mo about what seeds can still be planted this year.
- b. Joanne asked if it was possibly to use some of the restricted funds to grow flowers in the grass around Lamport Court We agreed to look into this in the following autumn and spring to flower next summer.