



# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chairman: Cllr Caroline Parker  
Vice Chairman: Cllr Paul Lawrence  
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson



QUALITY  
TOWN  
COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the next meeting of the **Allotments Committee** of the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council will take place on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Leigh Community Centre, 71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, at 7.30pm**, when it is hoped to transact the following business:

## Agenda

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS
4. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2013
5. REVIEW OF RENTS 2014/15
6. WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SITE REPRESENTATIVES ON ITEMS NOT COVERED ABOVE
  - a) Marshall Close (Appendix 1)
  - b) Leigh Allotments (Appendix 1)
  - c) Manchester Drive (Appendix 1)
  - d) Orchard (Appendix 1)
7. BUDGET – Report 2258/Allot (Appendix 2)
8. CORRESPONDENCE

Paul Beckerson  
Town Clerk  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**Any member who is unable to attend the meeting should send their apologies before the meeting.**

## **Report from Marshall Close. September 2013**

The fence and bridge have been removed by the local resident renting our end plot, and five new plot-holders have now taken over vacant plots, leaving only one now vacant.

All plots are now being cleared or worked, and there is a noticeable improvement on the site.

The cut back of trees encroaching onto the site is now complete, with just minor work to be completed by the janitor next week.

The change of the siting of the pathway towards the brook is just waiting for this to be completed, and the area has been cleared in preparation for the levelling of the pathway, which will hopefully improve drainage problems during the winter.

Although we have had no reported problems with local residents' children on the site, there has still been one report of a resident using his access gate to enter the site, and a couple of reports of missing crops have been received.

Damage from bad weather has been limited to one area, with a landslip and fissures affecting the middle of the plot bordering the brook.

Anne Scobie

### **MDA S Activity Report for LTC Meeting 18 Sept 2013**

#### **Activities**

- 1 In early May we hosted a plant sale and potato swap event in conjunction with the Leigh Horticultural Society. This was very successful, the profits being shared between three charities. We hope to repeat this format next year as both parties were pleased with the results.
- 2 A cheese and wine party was held on the 7 August to celebrate Allotments week. This was a great success held on a beautiful evening and well attended.
- 3 To date we have held 6 Meet and Greet meetings in our Committee room. Meetings are on each Wednesday from 11 to 1pm. Tea, coffee and cakes are supplied and are proving to be a good introduction for newcomers and older hands alike. The meetings offer a good opportunity to exchange ideas and views. Sheila and Lynn are there to officiate.
- 4 On the 11 August Sharpening Solutions were on site to sharpen any knives and tools presented to them and, judging by the activity were kept very busy. They will be coming again in the spring.
- 5 The Open Day was held on the 1 Sept. with the best results to date, helped by fine weather. The site was visited by a large number of visitors and four plots were let. The format was largely unchanged from previous years with the addition of a magician and the Clog Dancers. Our thanks go to LTC for the loan of the gazebos and chairs.

#### **Maintenance**

- 1 Site Security  
Over the past 12 Months we have experienced considerable difficulties in keeping all three entrances equipped with reliable padlocks. Two years ago we purchased 12 grounds-man padlocks to the standard combination but have experienced heavy wear on them, particularly the main gate, with varying degrees of failure and inconvenience to

users. As we are now nearly out of usable padlocks it was decided to look for a more modern equivalent. To this end we have purchased some new locks and incorporated them in the locking chains leaving the older padlocks in place. Anybody having difficulty will be issued with a key for the new padlock. It is hoped to effect a full change over in about 18 months.

2 Hedge Pruning

A light cut has been carried out on the two hedges within the site to prevent damage to vehicles using the tracks. This should be sufficient until the main cut in Jan/Feb.

3 Water

To date it has been necessary to replace one Ball valve and to clear two others of obstructions restricting the flow. A leak on one supply pipe has been cured and a new toilet seat fitted in the ladies lavatory. One blockage required the assistance of a plumber.

4 Tracks

Three working parties have been held to distribute the scalpings. Most has been spread but a small proportion has been held over to make good any soft areas which show up during the winter.

5 Rubbish Removal

The area next to the main entrance has been cleared of small trees and overhanging branches to provide a further 6 parking spaces on reasonable firm ground. This left a large mound of apparent hard core round the large Oak tree next to the access between the Leigh site and MDAS. A grab lorry was employed to remove this and the larger scalpings which we were unable to use. Unfortunately the grab revealed that beneath the hardcore was a large amount of household and other rubbish which the operator was unable to take as hardcore. He did, however, open up the mound which enabled us to pull out much of the rubbish and enabled most of the hard core to be removed. The rubbish remaining was then loaded into a 12 cu. yd. skip the next day.

This has provided a further 5 parking places and resulted in a much improved site area.

6 Plot Clearance

4 Bad plots have been cleared and subsequently let.

7 Grass Cutting.

"ISS Waterers" have made 5 cuts to date and, despite some early problems, are maintaining the site in a reasonable manner. No invoice has been received and no payment has been made.

8 Roof on MDAS Cafe and Shop.

The poor condition of the roof on the shop and cafe has been a problem for some time. At the last MDAS committee meeting it was agreed to replace it with a fully boarded and felted roof to match the existing roof on the other shed before the winter. The work is due to start on the 9 Sept.

**ASA Spend**

1	New Locks and Keys	£267.12
2)	Plot Clearance	£65.00
3)	Plumbing Costs	
	Blocked Toilet	£10.00
	Ball Valves and Seat	£51.45

4) Rubbish clearance	£466.00
Total Spend to date	<u>£ 859.57</u>

### **Items for consideration**

- 1 Fencing between the MDAS west field and houses to the north is in very poor condition collapsed in some places. Believe this is LTC responsibility.
- 2 Rubbish removal needed along top of MDAS east field as a result of the new fence. It is mainly mixed rubbish and would be charged at about £76/ton as landfill. It is badly overgrown at present; MDAS will review the position during the winter when the growth has died down.
- 3 A minimum of two extra water tanks would be required to supply the top allotments in the east field which are currently without tanks. We are considering the purchase of a water bowser to ease the situation.
- 4 Drainage in the main car park is very poor and made it unusable during the wet weather last year at a time when the tracks needed to be closed. Two drainage soil pipes running into the north-south ditch would help considerably and may not be very expensive using a small contractor and some volunteer help.
- 5 The hedge and ditch between the MDAS and Leigh sites, is in very poor condition. The ditch has been filled in in places and soil pipes are mainly blocked.  
  
Discussion with Ron Bates indicated that a group exists who specialises in restoring ancient hedge rows and ditches and may be willing to help. It is hoped to arrange a meeting in due course.

A. Wilson Vice Chairman MDAS.

## ***LEIGH ALLOTMENTS ORCHARD GROUP***

### **Orchard Report, September 2013**

Not a lot to report for the last two months except that the early promise of a good fruit harvest is proving correct. I have been picking apples from the early ripening trees George Cave and Discovery, plus saving some of the windfalls and have started making deliveries to members of the Orchard Group. Those trees are two of the best performers this year and there are a number of others which mature later which also have good crops.

We had a successful mid-week work party in mid August to clear the grass around the trees so the crop could actually be seen, and during that session a common blue butterfly was spotted; this is a relatively rare butterfly and this is the first time we have seen it on the orchard. It has now been seen on two other occasions. Our marbled whites also appeared briefly towards the end of July.

Given some reasonable periods of sun and rain in the next few weeks should make this our best ever season.

David Hammond  
12 September 2013

**LOSALGA REPORT 12/9/13**

All tracks have been mown and strimmed and kept in good condition, as have the parking areas. Several plots have been cleared of overgrown grass & bramble & subsequently let, although there are still some plots requiring attention.

Overgrown vegetation to part of the southern boundary alleyway was causing concern to a house holder, this has now been removed.

The areas around the notice boards and the stopcock require cutting back for access but this is imminent.

We have 3 names on the waiting list and hopefully plots will soon be available to let.

There are a number of let plots which have not been cultivated this season. Some of these have been strimmed by LOSALGA to prevent excessive grass pollen, but this situation is far from satisfactory. Plot numbers are supplied separately.

A mower, hedge cutter and rotavator have been bought from LTC, and these have already been put to good use...thank you!

We have now held 3 successful bbq, and our AGM.

Despite the poor spring weather plot holders have reported good harvests due to the excellent summer.

LOSALGA plots not being cultivated.....

6e 7w 8 9 13c 17w 39w 41b 41c 52a 52b 52c 59b 60b 62b 93 94 96 100c 101a

Heading	2012/13 B/F	Income Budget	Income to Date	Expenditure Budget	Spend to Date	Commitments	Balance	% Spent
Rents								
Manchester Drive		7,650	698.41				6951.59	9.13
Leigh		4,180	53.50				4126.5	1.28
Marshall Close		440	20.00				420	4.55
Grants			0.00					
Other Income			295.00					
Affiliations				0	0.00		0.00	
Water Rates				4,300	995.20		3,304.80	23.14
Staff Costs				4,274	1,943.48		2,330.14	45.48
Waste Clearance	1,719			0	£0.00		1,719.00	0.00
Maintenance				1,000	45.69		954.31	4.57
Miscellaneous					0.00		0.00	
Training					0.00		0.00	
Hedge Cutting				950	0.00		950.00	0.00
ASA - LA				1,600	800.00		800.00	50.00
ASA - MDAS				3,000	1,500.00		1,500.00	
ASA - MC				500	250.00		250.00	
Capital improvements*	2,750			2,500	5,256.62		-6.62	100.13
Keys			115.00	0	39.98		75.02	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,469</b>	<b>12,270</b>	<b>1181.91</b>	<b>18,124</b>	<b>10830.97</b>		<b>11,876.65</b>	<b>59.76</b>
Nett cost (exp - inc)		5,854			9649.06		674	
Revenue		-920			2,448.96			
Capital*		2,500			5,256.62			
Tenancy Deposits			607.50				607.50	