



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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



Notice is hereby given that the next meeting of the **Allotments Committee** of the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council will take place on **Wednesday 20th November 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 THE MEETING ON 18th SEPTEMBER 2013
5. REPORT BT CHAIRMAN OF ALLOTMENTS ON ASA's (Appendix 1)
6. PROVISION OF SIGNS REGARDING DUMPING OF RUBBISH
7. LEIGH ALLOTMENTS SITE – DELEGATION TO LA REGARDING LETTING OF PLOTS
8. CONFIRMATION THAT PLOTS ARE LET AS SEEN AND ARE NOT REGULATED BY EXACT DIMENSIONS
9. WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SITE REPRESENTATIVES ON ITEMS NOT COVERED ABOVE – (Appendix 2)
 - a) Marshall Close
 - b) Leigh Allotments
 - c) Manchester Drive
 - d) Orchard
10. ALLOTMENTS BUDGET 2014/15 (Appendix 3)
11. BUDGET – Report 2284/Allot (Appendix 4)
12. CORRESPONDENCE

Paul Beckerson
Town Clerk
14th November 2013

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

ASA report for 2013-10-13

I visited the 3 Allotment sites this morning to carry out an inspection in line with the ASA Agreement, with each of the Representatives.

I am happy to report that all is going well with the Societies maintaining the allotments. All 3 sites have met the criteria set out in the Agreement with grass areas looking neat and tidy, hedges trimmed back and the tanks in good order etc.

MDAS

The tracks have been improved with hard work and help from volunteers and the whole site is looking clean and tidy. They are working towards getting the majority of plot holders to number their plots; this will not only make administration easier, but save vital time if there were to be an emergency. When the vegetation dies back, volunteers will be clearing into piles the rubbish that was left from when the fencing was installed; this will then be taken away.

LEIGH SITE

The road surface here has also been improved, although there is a problem with one track being quite wet owing to a spring running into it. This site is also clean and tidy and much effort has gone into clearing overgrown plots to be let out so that new 'Allotmenters' are given a head start.

MARSHALL CLOSE

All of the plot holders on the site have signed up for volunteering duties. Lots of work is being done to improve the paths, all the hedging has been cut back and the site is looking quite smart. The rep is considering putting in a compost toilet.

All in all, our contract with the Societies is working very well and I congratulate them on their efforts.

Cllr Paul Lawrence

Chairman Allotments

Report for MDAS November 2013

The date of our Christmas social is on the 15th December at MDAS site, which will be in aid of the Macmillan fund. There will be a raffle and Mulled wine for all.

The Meet and Greet Group is thriving, on average about 14 attend once a fortnight to discuss issues and to swap ideas. They held a Plot to Pot evening, the participants brought a dish made from produce of their allotment.

The shop and Cafe will be closed until January but will open for the Social.

SITE MAINTENANCE

An 8yd skip was filled with rubbish from the top of the site where a considerable number of plastic bags and old fencing had been dumped by being pushed through the security fencing. It was not possible to get a grab lorry in the area because of the vegetation. In December it is proposed to get a lorry along the access road to lift the remaining rubbish.

ASA

There is a considerable quantity of wood to be burned and permission is asked to burn this during the winter months when the conditions are favourable. Likewise permission is asked to move the container to a position alongside the wire fence surrounding the Environmental Agency area and behind the Committee Rooms. This will allow improvements around the committee rooms and behind the cafe and provide a more convivial area.

MDAS

Tracks are now closed because of the wet weather. Work parties will continue throughout the winter to distribute the rest of the scalpings on the tracks. A new roof has now been put on the shop and café. We are also looking at the severe drainage problem in the car park and surrounding area.

MOWING

One more cut hopefully before the end of the year. SS Western will send their invoice in in December.

RENTS

About 30 have still not paid. Carol will be sending out letters and making phone calls. We have currently 11 half plots to rent but there is no current waiting list. We would like keys for the standing locking posts as ours do not seem to work, also the key for the standpipe box at the top of the site.

Ashley Hitchcock (Chairman MDAS)

Report from Marshall Close. November 2013

Not a lot to report, other than all plots are now let, with nearly all plots showing marked improvement.

Bonfires have been held, and most of the communal plot is now clear. We are hoping that the frost will reduce the stinging nettles covering the compost heap alongside the brook, enabling this to be removed.

Bad weather conditions have limited further work, with paths and plots waterlogged.

Anne Scobie

LOSALGA report 13/ 11/ 13

All tracks have been mown and strimmed along with the parking areas. Some plots have been cleared and let. The tracks are currently open for use but are being monitored. They will also have more scalpings laid over winter.

We currently have 3 names on the waiting list and plots have been cleared and are now available so this should be a temporary situation.

The Greenhouse is now closed for breakfast until February next year, although we will be holding our mulled wine and mince pie event on 15th December.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank LTC for their support during the season.

LEIGH ALLOTMENTS ORCHARD GROUP

Orchard Report, November 2013

This month just about signals the end of the productive season for the orchard. Since the last report in September probably several hundred apples and a few pears have been delivered to Group members and supporters, leaving just a few late maturing apples on one or two of the trees. It has been a bumper year.

The final full work party took place last Saturday when we carried out the annual grass cut. Not an easy task as rain had flattened much of the grass but we did have three scythes (and four operators) in action, resulting in about 95% of the grass being cut and cleared away by lunch time. One of the scythe operators was Martyn Davis who, as well as being the owner of an old traditional scythe which he wanted to try out, is also the local representative of the 'River of Flowers' campaign and he had visited the orchard in October to assess its impact on the scheme. The orchard should have a mention in a report he is producing.

Now we wait to see if the orchard is to be partly flooded as in the last two winters; the small ditch on the northern boundary has been almost full of water for the last three weeks. We will probably have another late season again next year, regardless of the longevity of the winter: this year has run up to three or four weeks behind the usual schedule and according to Mo Perkins who brings apples and pears to the farmers' market the trees will still need their normal length of dormancy before starting into action in the Spring.

David Hammond
November 2013

Sheet 4

1st draft of allotments budget 2014/15 14-11-13

Self Help / Management

Heading	B/F 2013/14	Income	Expenditure
Rents			
Manchester Drive		8,757	
Leigh		4,389	
Marshall Close		462	
MDAS Commission			725
Plot clearance			
Rubbish clearance			
Equipment			
Water Rates			4,300
Staff Costs**			5,606
Maintenance			1,000
Miscellaneous			60
Training			
Vehicle			
Hedge Cutting			1,000
Capital improvements*			2,500
Grass Cutting			0
Keys			0
MDAS Grant			3,000
LA Grant			1,600
MC Grant			500
Totals		£13,608	£20,291
Nett cost (exp - inc)		£6,683	

Revenue

Capital*

** Includes an element for travel

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	2590.00				1590	61.96
Marshall Close		440	327.25				112.75	74.38
Grants			0.00					
Other Income			640.00					
Affiliations				0	82.50		-82.50	
Water Rates				4,300	995.20		3,304.80	23.14
Staff Costs				4,274	3,209.29		1,064.33	75.10
Waste Clearance	1,469			0	£400.00		1,069.00	27.23
Maintenance	250			1,000	113.12		1,136.88	9.05
Miscellaneous					82.50		-82.50	
Training					0.00		0.00	
Hedge Cutting				950	0.00		950.00	0.00
ASA - LA				1,600	1,200.00		400.00	75.00
ASA - MDAS				3,000	2,250.00		750.00	75.00
ASA - MC				500	375.00		125.00	75.00
Capital improvements*	2,750			2,500	5,256.62		-6.62	100.13
Keys			185.00	0	79.98		105.02	
Totals	4,469	12,270	4440.66	18,124	14044.21		8,733.41	77.49
Nett cost (exp - inc)		5,854			9603.55		719	
Revenue		-920			1,137.64			
Capital*		2,500			5,256.62			
Tenancy Deposits			727.50				727.50	