

Dear All,

Here's the notes from today's meeting:

Matters arising from last minutes

Outside Tomatoes:

They weren't well managed as they were quite a lot of work, there was also an issue around which ones we planted. Agreed to grow bush varieties next year. Red Alert and Legend recommended by Claire.

Trays and capillary matting:

We did one for peppers which worked well but didn't do more as the trays were hard to find. Sizes to be sourced for next year. Agreed to not progress capillary matting.

Peas:

Heris fencing and jute netting options discussed instead of pea sticks.

Action: Robin and Bob to work out how many we need and then we'll look at coatings and getting them to site. John W to check with a builder this week.

Potatoes:

Didn't use the string but we should next year.

Compost bins:

John W to check with shepherdess next time we see her.

Crops 2019

Overall it was a fantastic year; last week there were 34 different veg & fruit available

Cabbages - need to find a smaller variety

Charlotte potatoes - need to plant deeper and earth up as lost about 50%. To review quantity planted after winter.

Early carrots - very mixed sizes. Agreed to plants in blocks fortnightly rather than a whole bed at once

Parsley - haven't grown well. Agreed to try a different variety and stagger the planting.

What's worked well / try next year

One off Wednesday evenings for specific tasks worked well

Grow hot, spicy chillies in a specific coloured pots so they can be easily identified

Trial crops

Endamame - grow a few less next year

Fruit trees

Dana-leigh going to train some people up to take over from her. Need to identify a group of people to be responsible for the fruit trees. John, Ashley, Ray, Robin to take the lead and go through the year and see how we go. Agreed to have fruit days to just focus on pruning apples etc.

Other Fruit

Need to improve our cropping of soft fruit as we did lose quite a bit.

Needs to be weeded properly.

Rats & Rabbits

Saw a stoat today!

Allotments are losing beetroot and we lost sweet corn. Need to poison the rats and check the perimeter. Agreed cats weren't viable.

Electric fencing round sweet corn very expensive and the rats just bury underneath, so probably not an option.

Weeds, bonfires and compost

New insurance policy has very specific rules around bonfires that need to be born in mind when we start again

Can start having bonfires again

Need some more compost bins - agreed to ask the building team in a month or two if we haven't had time to build them ourselves, could do a joint project.

Going to use manure rather than weed suppression-not to be applied too thickly. John W to get some more manure.

Saturday sales

Should we have a cut off point for being open for sales?

Justine to amend price list:

Squash priced as marked.

Add in aubergines and peppers - price as marked

Pears - price as marked

Removing 1 and 2p pieces from the price list to be discussed at board meeting next week

Frost & Watering

Tomorrow we are expecting frost - what to cover?

Barlotti beans to be cropped tomorrow at 4pm and cover a few crops up eg dwarf French beans

Watering now finished and opening up polytunnel not needed - Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday team days are enough

See you soon

Justine