



Management Committee Meeting

7.15pm on 9th May 2017 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Committee: Stuart McKenzie - Inverleith (**SMcK**) (President) : Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**) (Secretary) : Dave Roberts - Craigentinny Telferton (**DR**) (Treasurer) : Maureen Edwards - Lady Road (**ME**) : Alison Hewitt - Warriston (**AH**) : Alice Bain - Warriston (**AB**) : Paul Kerr - Redhall (**PK**) : Peter Wright - Lady Road (**PW**) : John Gray - Warriston (**JGray**) : Gilbert Clark - Midmar (**GC**) : Neiria McClure - Claremont Park (**NMcC**) : John Grace - Midmar (**JGrace**); Observers: Jake Booth - Carrick Knowe (**JB**) : David Morrice - Restalrig (**DM**) : Stuart Swarbrick - Ferry Road (**SS**).

1. Apologies: Mary Simpson - Saughton Mains (**MS**) : Willie Aitken - Carrick Knowe (**WA**).

2. Actions from 11th April: **AB** said the Field Studies Council was no longer promoting public programs on pollinating insects so they will not be able to help with developing pollinator-friendly policies on allotments.

ME asked why the conflict involving one anti-social plotholder at Lady Road, discussed at last month's meeting, was not minuted. **EW** said he had not done so as he felt discretion was required. It had been agreed that FEDAGA could not become directly involved, but pressure had been applied informally to encourage a speedy and satisfactory resolution. He was pleased to note that with the exclusion of the perpetrator the matter was now closed. **ME** said that with the troublemaker now off the site the atmosphere at Lady Road is now much improved. She also asked why the Minutes are no longer formally approved. It was **AGREED** to do so in future.

3. Site Reports: **PK** said a recent meeting at Redhall had resulted in many requests for tree work to be submitted. The other main item of business was the problem of members using and damaging communally owned equipment. It has become very costly to maintain the mower.

ME said with the removal of the protagonist at Lady Road the Allotment Officer had changed the lock and issued new keys. It was noted that the problem was resolved once Councillors were drawn in. The lesson appears to be that success is more likely if pressure is applied to officials by getting elected representatives on side.

NMcC reported a neighbouring proprietor is staging noisy events with loudspeakers attached to the allotment wall at Claremont Park. She had advised plotholders to call 101 to make a complaint.

JB reported that the long-awaited tree felling at Carrick Knowe has taken place. **EW** said **WA** had been in touch today to say that debris from the tree against the perimeter fence could enable intruders to gain access. This will be reported to the Allotment Officer. **ACTION - SMcK.**

AB said the recent Plant Sale at Warriston was a great success. It was very busy, enjoyed by all and raised £200 for site funds.

SS said the Ferry Road Trade Waste bin has not been emptied recently. **PW** commented the Lady Road bin was emptied last week: the first time this year. **SS** observed that some plotholders are responding by taking their rubbish to nearby communal waste bins. It was noted this is a problematic solution as it is technically fly-tipping. **SMcK** will raise this with the Allotment Officer. **ACTION - SMcK.**

JGrace said the Midmar AGM is imminent. He wondered how to encourage members to step forward to take on positions of responsibility as this seems to be a near-impossible task. There are many new plotholders but few come forward to serve on the committee and none are willing to be an office-bearer. **PW** said that Lady Road site rules state that all plotholders must serve on the committee and they are told this when they arrive. People must be encouraged to contribute to the common good in self-organised activities. **JGrace** asked if FEDAGA should become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation to protect office bearers in the event of a legal claim. It was explained that in the past it had been decided that this was impracticable as the amount of work required to gain charitable status was huge and no-one was prepared to volunteer for it. **SMcK** said that insurance was required for the Allotment Show and this seemed to be sufficient. All site associations are encouraged to take out insurance to cover themselves for Open Days, conduct risk assessments and display disclaimers.

DM said that the recent AGM at Restalrig had seen a reshuffle of post holders. In general the site is a happy place and the meeting was very well attended. As a rat has been spotted **DM** was advised to contact the Council who will take the appropriate measures to deal with the problem.

DR said a bar-b-que is scheduled for 10th June at Craigentinny Telferton. He noted that last year's successful campaign to save the site had resulted in the general standard of plots improving and this trend is continuing.

SMcK reported on the recent clean-up at Inverleith. A massive skip, costing £260, was hired and this was filled with junk. Some stuff was recycled and a great deal of wood was burned. Usable wood was collected to build a new communal compost bin.

4. Secretary's Report: **EW** had circulated a written report. He said the latest excellent site newsletter is from Saughton Mains. He will post this and other recent site newsletters on the website. **ACTION - EW.** The next FEDAGA Newsletter will concentrate on the Show. Following the article on growing potatoes a member had asked for more pieces on growing different vegetables each month. Members will be reminded that the Newsletter is a forum to exchange information and tips. There was a discussion on growing vegetables under lights and using growing media specifically designed for cannabis cultivation, which may find its way into a future edition.

Correspondence with the Allotment Officer was noted, especially his comment on the redevelopment of the farmhouse at Bridgend. This led to discussion about the electrically powered water tank supplying the site. It was **AGREED** that **SMcK** raise the necessity of this with the Allotment Officer as it is not necessary and maintaining it is not a good use of the allotment budget. **ACTION - SMcK.**

The Tree Audit has been completed and with a couple of last-minute additions this will be sent to the Allotment Officer and discussed with him by **SMcK.** **ACTION - SMcK.** **SS** noted that, with regard to work at Ferry Road, there will require to be liaison between the Council and Warriston Crematorium to ensure funeral services are not disturbed.

5. Treasurer's Report: **DR** had circulated a statement showing expenditure of £19 for Show Prizes, £10 for trophy engraving, £8.39 for bags for onions and £75 for SAGS membership. Total assets stand at £12,273.34. He is waiting for figures for Kings Seeds and Potato and Onion Scheme sales which will be added to the subscriptions due from the Council and paid to sites. **ACTION - DR.**

6. President's Report: **SMcK** said that he is due to meet with the Allotment Officer tomorrow, when he will discuss the Tree Audit, Trade Waste bins, the Allotment Strategy, problems with consistency of approach with new plotholders, the water pump at Bridgend, general issues with the water supply, the disclosure of paid-up members, the Repair and Maintenance program and training opportunities for new plotholders. **ACTION - SMcK.**

7. Maintenance Report: **NMcC** had nothing to report as she has not met recently with the Allotment Officer.

8. Show Report: **JGrace** said the Show subcommittee had recently met and discussed how to make the event a success. He said it will be important to have "Show champions" who will encourage awareness of and enthusiasm to participate or at least attend the Show. In the first instance, members of the Management Committee should take the lead. **ACTION - Management Committee.** **EW** had prepared some draft publicity posters and a design was chosen. This will be distributed along with handbills for members to all sites and libraries. **ACTION - EW** and **SS.** **DM** asked if sponsorship is possible but it was explained that this has been explored but it has not been possible to arrange

anything other than a few products to offer as prizes. There was discussion about the proposed list of Exhibit Classes and final decisions were made. The Homecrafts section will be styled From Plot To Plate. A list of Exhibit Classes will be prepared for noticeboards to be distributed with posters and handbills for plotholders. **ACTION - EW**. Alexis McKay will be approached to print a number of pamphlets sufficient to provide at least 1 to all sites detailing Exhibit Classes, guidance notes and an entry form. **ACTION - SMcK**. PW suggested an award for the site with the most number of entries, relative to number of plots. Bags of radish seeds for the children's competition will be distributed at next month's meeting. **ACTION - NMCC**. A separate publicity notice for the children's competition will be produced. **ACTION - EW**.

9. Strategy Report: Nothing to report. **SMcK** hoped some progress will be made tomorrow.

10. Social and Educational: **SMcK** anticipates that a visit to SASA can be arranged for 30th June. **ACTION - SMcK**.

11. Trading Schemes: There is no report.

12. Planning Report: AH had surveyed planning applications that may be of interest. There is nothing specific to allotments this month, but she noted an application to convert a brownfield site in Granton into a community garden.

13. Any Other Business: It was **AGREED** to arrange a social event for committee members on 8th August.

14. Date of Next Meeting: 13th June.