



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Management Committee Meeting

7.15pm on 10th October 2017 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Stuart McKenzie (**SMcK**)(Chairman) ; Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**) (Secretary) ; Peter Wright - Lady Road (**PW**); Alexis McKay - Ferry Road (**AM**); Gilbert Clark - Midmar (**GC**) ; 'Alison Hewitt – Warriston (**AH**); Neiria McClure – Claremont Park (**NMcC**) ; Alice Bain -Warriston (**AB**) ; Brian Bleakley – Midmar (**BB**) ; David Morrice - Restalrig (**DM**) ; Maureen Edwards Lady Road (**ME**) ; Paul Kerr - Redhall (**PK**) ; Ian Woolard – Council Allotments Officer (**IW**)

Apologies: David Roberts -Craigentiny;Telferton (**DR**); John Grace -Midmar (**JG**); Ursula Wright – Portobello East Junction (**UW**) ;Mary Simpson – Saughton Mains (**MS**) ; Stuart Swarbrick - Ferry Road (**SS**)

2. Actions and Approval of Minutes of 12 September : The Minutes were approved by **PW** and seconded by **AW** **SM** reported that he had attended the last SAGS meeting and had sent Manor Estates the SAGS Allotment Design Guide. He has also hand delivered AGM papers to several sites where there is no mailing address. Proposed excursions by FEDAGA in 2018 is covered in the recent FEDAGA Newsletter. Zoo manure is also covered in the Newsletter. John Grace and Neiria McClure have agreed to check over the FEDAGA accounts before the AGM on Tuesday 24 October.

3. Site Reports: ME The Lady Road AGM was held on 24 September. Some members raised the issue of the size of the bags of potatoes available under the potato scheme (usually 2.0 or 2.5Kg). A few members have left the FEDAGA scheme because they can buy smaller bags of potatoes at other outlets. SM suggested that a potato swap or giveaway scheme could be started on the FEDAGA Blog.

ME thanked Ian for the new site gate installed recently at Lady Road to replace the old one which was in disrepair.

GC mentioned a problem with Eel Worm at Midmar and that certain varieties of potato are very vulnerable to this destructive pest. He suggested that potatoes which were susceptible to eel worm should be banned by the Committee.

AB mentioned that two large trees had been taken down at Warriston as they had been causing a lot of shading to several plots.

SM said that some plot holders at Inverleith had taken to cutting down their own unwanted trees.

DM Restalrig have managed to get their waste container back.

NMcC Claremont have had their hedge cut back

4. Secretary's Report: Dean Allotments have now affiliated. Nick Cook tells me they have reverted to their old name, dropping the "Gallery" part. He hopes to attend future meetings - but not this one as we clash with their AGM.

Social Events - The piece in the Newsletter prompted one reply from members.

Council allotments database – the system has crashed and will have to be re- constructed. The data was backed up and so has not been lost.

Individual membership – an enquiry has been received from an individual on the waiting list about joining as a member. This is to be referred to Dave Roberts.

Retirement plots – There has been interest in retaining a small raised bed plot for members getting on in years. The Allotments Officer is aware of this and tries to accommodate requests where possible.

Royal Highland Educational Trust - Several sites (Inverleith, Carrick Knowe, Midmar,Claremont Park, Craigentiny Telferton) have responded to the appeal for childrens' visits to allotments. Unfortunately ,the RHET have since re-considered and the plan to visit allotments has been shelved.

Apple Press now at Midmar. Contact Andrew Watt for access.

Disabled ploholders – An enquiry from a disabled ploholder about converting their old plot to make it wheelchair friendly was discussed. The Allotment Officer does his best to accommodate mobility needs when issuing plots.

Northfield – Enquiry received from a ploholder requesting access to water. Installation of mains water is prohibitively expensive, so arrangements for a large water butt and harvesting water from an adjoining building is being investigated.

Centenaries – A Midmar ploholder has prepared a brief history of his site which will appear in a forthcoming Newsletter. Also, Inverleith have prepared a pamphlet celebrating their centenary which is available for a donation.

Prestonfield – Enquiry received from a Housing officer in this area conveying interest from some ploholders of a small allotment set up by the Housing Department to join FEDAGA . Referred to Dave Roberts.

Enquiry from the Council requesting use of FEDAGA's logo. This is for use on their new invoicing system. Permission was granted.

AGM - Nominations received:

President - **Stuart McKenzie** (Lady Road)

Treasurer - **Dave Roberts** (Lady Road)

Trading Secretary - **Brian Bleakley** (Lady Road)

Committee members: **Alice Bain** (Lady Road, Warriston), **Gilbert Clark** (Lady Road),

Maureen Edwards (Lady Road), **John Grace** (Lady Road), **Jon Gray** (Lady Road),

Alison Hewitt (Lady Road, Warriston), **Paul Kerr** (Lady Road), **Neiria McClure** (Lady

Road), **Mary Simpson** (Lady Road, Saughton Mains), **Peter Shaw** (Lady Road, Saughton

Mains), **Ernie Watt** (Lady Road), **Rosina Weightman** (Lady Road, Saughton Mains),

Peter Wright (Lady Road).

Notified delegates: Brian Horsburgh and Muriel Horsburgh (Lady Road) ; George Sutherland ,Mary Simpson and Rosina Weightman (Saughton Mains)

5. Treasurer's Report: Expenditure shows £529 .Craigentiny subscriptions and trading dividends £74.42 and Portobello East Junction trading dividends £15.09. AGM Expenses £53.72. Total assets : £13,363.41.The problem of uncashed cheques for sites with no bank account will be referred to the AGM.

6. President's Report:

ME – Southside Community Centre are abolishing the Associate membership fee and FEDAGA will be treated as a local organisation- cost £5/hr. It was suggested that we could pay annually.

SMcK - Northfield Drive – Heather Macpherson emailed the FEDAGA website asking for help with their water supply. The site opened three years ago and has no piped water. They have to bring in water themselves . A water supply was built as part of the site but never connected . The Council says it will cost £12,000 to connect which is prohibitively expensive. An alternative method of harvesting water naturally from a nearby roof into a large tank will cost only £2K. The site has 18 ¼ plots.

SMcK replied that we support this proposal and it has been included in this years maintenance list.It is awaiting prioritisation by the Allotment Service.

Manor Estates enquiry – followed up with Graeme Russell who wishes Community Gardens. Passed him the SAGS information on site design etc. Awaiting his response.

Gordon Wilkie is researching WWII allotment provision – **SMcK** has passed him Caitlin's study.

Rock dust bulk purchasing – FEDAGA should be able to reduce the retail price of £13.99 per bag. More Information will be provided in the next Newsletter

SAGS Meeting – **SMcK** attended the last meeting in Dunblane and gave them an article on Inverleith allotments centenary 1918 - 2018. Major items –

Newletter due – copy needed. Passed on Inverleith Centenary article and asked to profile Gilbert.

Brian Thompson has done a report on Midmar Allotments history - a reduced version will appear in the FEDAGA newsletter.

Galvanising Grassroots Guide Part 2 ; Management of sites – Approved and funded

A suggestion has been made for 'retirement plots' for retired people as part of an objective within Better Care linked to community growing opportunities for older people. They are thinking of asking the Council to consider allocating a couple of allotment plots to groups that work with older people. This would enable them to create small,supported growing communities of older people. So, for

example ,one or two of the day centres might be allocated a plot and then they would organise visits with their members .It would just be a trial at first ,with them evaluating the success. FEDAGA were generally supportive of this proposal.

7. Maintenance Report: Allotment Officer –

2017 was an average year with site standards being maintained. A few sites have declined slightly mainly Northfield and Dumbryden . Steps are being taken too address this with new ploholders being allocated plots.

The weather helped get the season of to a good start with a dry Spring, followed by a wettish Summer. Site standards started well but fell away slightly as the rain piled in during July/August.

There weren't too many problems reported over the Summer apart from a lock-change at Lady road following an eviction. Northfield Drive are still looking for a new water supply and tree works were slower than anticipated. At Bridgend, the power supply to the Bridgend Healthy Project was cut and a new supply had to be installed and paid for by CEC. Vandals managed to break into the pumphouse but no damage was caused.

After a mild Winter the water supply failures/repairs were surprisingly the worst for many years and after turning the water on in late March,many sites had bursts and double check valves failed at some of the new sites. It was a busy time.

Bees are now resident at three sites including Bridgend , Redhall and Stenhouse.

Allotment spend is currently ongoing and I am working with Neiria on this one. Some works are slower than anticipated.

I am currently on my Autumn purge before the dormant season starts. Plots are starting anew or will be vacant before 2018 and will be re-let shortly afterwards.

The old allotment database failed and a new one has been created for me.

Trade waste collection is better after a slow start. Some bins which were missing were replaces at Carricknowe, Inverleith and Pilrig.

There are 86 new ploholders this year and some terminations at over 30 sites.

Lochend Square opened in April and is going okay. There are 11 half plots on the ground and 13 raised beds. The water supply burst but has been fixed.

Many sites are now requesting woodchip.

300 new a ploholders guide have been printed off for new incoming ploholders. Site Reps will be informed of who is coming in.

Service cuts are making it more difficult to get the hedge cut at Claremont , Pilrig and other associated work and relying on contractors to do this work most of the time now.

Still trying to resolve the oil drum issue at Carricknowe.

SMcK asked **IW** if notification could be given to sites of when the work to cut down unwanted trees is to take place. He also asked if **IW** could speak with Waste Services to find out when the collection dates are for each site. **IW** to look into this.

8. Strategy Report: The Strategy Group will be meeting again soon.

9. Social and Educational: A volunteer is needed to take on this interesting job

10. Trading Schemes: **BB** has sent out the potato scheme information for this year. All orders to be in by 20 November.

11. Planning Report: **AH** said there were no applications affecting allotments.However there are a couple of applications in for Community Gardens (Raised beds) at Bingham Place and Hailesland Gardens

12. Any Other Business: None.

13. Date of Next Meeting: 14 November.