



THE FEDERATION OF  
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT  
ALLOTMENTS AND  
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

***Management Committee Meeting***  
***7.15pm on 12th September 2017 at Southside Community Centre***

**Present:** Committee: Stuart McKenzie - Inverleith (**SMcK**) : Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**) (Secretary) : Dave Roberts - Craigentenny Telferton (**DR**) (Treasurer) : Alison Hewitt - Warriston (**AH**) : John Grace - Midmar (**JG**) : Maureen Edwards - Lady Road (**ME**) : Mary Simpson - Saughton Mains (**MS**) : Gilbert Clark - Midmar (**GC**) : Alice Bain - Warriston (**AB**) : Neiria McClure - Claremont Park (**NMcC**); Observers: Stuart Swarbrick - Ferry Road (**SS**) : Ursula Wright - Portobello East Junction (**UW**).

**1. Apologies:** Brian Bleakley - Midmar (**BB**) : Paul Kerr - Redhall (**PK**) : John Gray - Warriston.

**2. Actions and Approval of Minutes of 11th July:** The Minutes were approved by **ME** and seconded by **NMcC**.

**3. Site Reports:** **MS** noted that George Sutherland is retiring from Saughton Mains after many years serving as Trading Secretary there. It is expected that many ploholders will register with the online Kings Seeds Scheme. **EW** paid tribute to George, saying he had also been FEDAGA Trading Secretary for many years and had served a great many ploholders across the city. Arrangements for those who do not have access to or cannot use the internet were discussed. They should add their orders to those of someone who has registered.

**JG** said Midmar had celebrated "100 Years Of Digging" on their successful Open Day. There was a scarecrow competition, a folk band, cakes and teas, and a potted history of the site written by a ploholder was circulated. It was proposed to spend the money raised on refurbished solar panels and an apple press. **DR** suggested the FEDAGA Apple Press could be relocated from Inverleith to Midmar so that it is on hand when required.

**SMcK** said the Inverleith Open Day will be on 24th September. He said he is still waiting for the promised tree work to happen.

**AB** said the tree work is ongoing at Warriston. The AGM will take place on 15th October in the Botanic Cottage. There will be a talk on the Edible Garden project.

**NMcC** said the hedge at Claremont Park has only been partially cut. One side has been trimmed and the top is now growing furiously and is unsightly, drawing criticism from neighbours.

**SS** said that he understands Ferry Road will be next for tree work once Warriston has been completed. He reported on an underground wasp nest uncovered when a plotholder was tidying up. If an individual is not confident about treating the nest they should contact the Council. **JG** said he was impressed with the quick response he recently saw.

**4. Secretary's Report:** **EW** had circulated a written report. The blog will be kept going as there has been a couple of contributions from **SS** and responses have been submitted. Providing a link from the Newsletter is generating interest.

An enquiry from Manor Estates Housing Association about developing allotments on open grassed areas has been responded to but has not been taken up. **SMcK** will write again as his e-mail may have gone astray. **ACTION - SMcK. PW** noted that this initiative is one the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations has been interested in with a view to reducing landscape maintenance costs.

Two initiatives to use fruit and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste have been publicised. However there was concern about the practicality of these. **UW** had tried to generate support at Portobello East Junction but was disappointed in the response. She said she knew of many enterprises such as the Restalrig Lochend Community Hub that would be delighted to use such produce. **EW** said that in his experience people find it difficult to ensure that their allotment glut made it's way to where it is needed largely because it requires co-ordination with others.

The availability of the Apple Press will be publicised again. So far, only Midmar and one plotholder at Lady Road have responded to the offer.

AGM papers have been sent out, unfortunately with a couple of minor errors in the Notice for publication on site noticeboards. A corrected version has been issued. Some sites have not provided contact addresses so their papers cannot be posted. Volunteers came forward to hand deliver papers for India Place, Victoria Park and Northfield Drive. Papers for Kirkliston, Drumbrae, Lochend Square and Inchkeith Court are still to be delivered. **EW** will endeavour to see that these find their way to the relevant sites. **ACTION - EW.** Cllr. Lesley Macinnes has kindly agreed to speak at the AGM.

**UW** provided suggestions for social excursions she was exploring for Portobello East Junction. **EW** suggested that these and a few others be adopted by FEDAGA. They will be publicised in the Newsletter. **ACTION - EW.**

**EW** said he had been contacted by a plotholder at Carrick Knowe who had discovered that a large quantity of used engine oil had been dumped in his water butt. Subsequently, more oil had been discovered elsewhere on the site. The

Allotment Officer and the Police had been notified. **EW** had suggested Councillors also be alerted. The Allotment Officer is hoping to enlist help from Council colleagues at the adjoining golf course to remove and dispose of the pollution.

**EW** was pleased that **PK** has volunteered to take responsibility for minuting meetings after the AGM. He hoped that other volunteers would also come forward to take on other aspects of his duties.

**EW** said the Royal Highland Educational Trust has requested access to allotment sites to teach children about where food comes from. This has been publicised and Claremont Park, Craigentenny Telferton and Inverleith have responded. As yet, none have received a reply.

**DR** said that he has received an application to affiliate Dean Gallery Allotments Association.

An offer of free “zoo poo” has been received from Edinburgh Zoo. This will have to be collected from the zoo by arrangement. Details have been posted on the website and will appear in the Newsletter. **ACTION - EW.**

**5. Treasurer’s Report:** **DR** had circulated a statement to the end of July showing expenditure of £3 for a missing West Mains potato order, and £137.94 and £186.11 for subscriptions and trading dividends to West Mains and Saughton Mains, respectively. Total assets stand at £13,946.13.

Account examiners **NMcC** and **JG** agreed to meet up to examine the accounts to authenticate them for the AGM. **ACTION - NMcC and JG.**

**ME** said she will represent FEDAGA at the Southside Community Centre AGM. She said there is a proposal to adopt a commercial letting arrangement which, if passed, will result in more expensive room hire costs for FEDAGA.

**6. President’s Report:** **SMcK** said that he was pleased to have made contact with Cllr. Macinnes, the Convenor of the Transport and Environment Committee. He said FEDAGA has been invited to meet to discuss implementation of the Council’s Allotment Strategy after the AGM. He noted that the main Strategy objective is providing more sites to comply with the Community Empowerment legislation.

**DR** said a key requirement for FEDAGA will be to get details of how many ploholders are at each site and who has not paid their membership dues.

**7. Maintenance Report:** **NMcC** said there have been no discussions recently. The tree work is slowly proceeding. The Allotment Officer is expected to attend the next meeting.

**8. Show Report:** **JG** gave a report on the Show. With all numbers greatly up on last year and also exceeding the 2012 figures he said this year’s Show was

undoubtedly a huge success. 66 exhibitors represented 18 sites, the top sites in terms of participation being Lady Road, followed by Inverleith, and then Midmar and Claremont Park. The lead judge is retiring so a replacement will have to be found. The Heritage Potato display generated a lot of interest. Mark Hocart of SRUC was busy throughout giving advice on plant disease. He suggested this could be developed next year as a side event. Although the children's entries were not great in number it was **AGREED** to continue with this category as engagement with future allotment holders is vital. Arrangements for trophy engraving were agreed with **NMcC**. It is hoped the engraved trophies will be ready for presentation at the AGM. **ACTION - NMcC**. It is proposed that the Show next year will avoid clashing with the Dundee Show and will take place the following weekend. There will also be an effort to promote those classes that did not attract many entries.

**9. Strategy Report:** **SMcK** said that it is hoped this will reconvene after meeting with Cllr. Macinnes next month.

**10. Social and Educational:** As discussed earlier, there are proposals that will be put to members to see if there is sufficient interest to take forward. **ACTION - EW**.

**11. Trading Schemes:** **BB** has indicated that he will issue Trading Scheme lists next week and allow a month for orders to be submitted. He proposed that he will go with last year's varieties unless he receives any other suggestions. **AH** requested that Banana Shallots be added to the scheme.

**12. Planning Report:** **AH** said that, as far as she could see, there were no applications affecting allotments.

**13. Any Other Business:** None.

**14. Date of Next Meeting:** 10th October.