



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

*FEDAGA Management Team Meeting
7.00 pm on Tuesday 18th September 2018 at Southside
Community Centre*

Present: Dave Roberts (Acting Chair)(Craigentiny - Telferton) (**DR**); Ernie Watt (Cambridge Ave) (Newsletter) (**EW**) ; Liz Grace (Secretary) (Midmar) (**EG**) ; John Grace (Allotment Show) (Midmar) (**JG**); Paul Kerr (Minute Secretary) (Redhall) (**PK**) ; Rosina Weightman (Saughton Mains) (**RW**); Peter Wright (Lady Road) (**PW**) ; Maureen Edwards (Lady Road) (**ME**); Gilbert Clark (Midmar) (**GC**); Phil Dixon (Northfield Drive) (**PD**); Margaret McLennan (Bridgend) (**MMcL**); Alice Bain (Warriston) (**AB**) ; Alison Hewitt (Warriston) (**AH**)

1. **Apologies:** Stuart McKenzie (Chairman), Stuart Swarbrick (Ferry Road), Brian Bleakley(Trading), Neiria McClure(Maintenance)

2. **Adoption of Minutes of previous meeting** - the Minutes of the previous management team meeting held on 10 July 2018 were approved.

3. **Matters Arising** - none.

4. **Site Reports** -

Warriston - several large trees which were overshadowing plots have been removed from the boggy area. This area is to be re-planted with bog loving plants.(**AB/AH**)

Saughton Mains - there have been thefts of soft fruit from several plots.

Plotolders are reminded to contact the Police if thefts are discovered and to obtain an Incident Number to allow follow up.

Midmar - the Open Day on 11 was very successful. Entertainment was provided by two folk musicians and there were produce and tea and cake sales which helped raise site funds. A Scarecrow display provided amusement for visitors.

Midmar received an enquiry from a lady who wanted to know if she could help on one of the allotment plots. The meeting discussed advantages and disadvantages of volunteers. She was advised to contact Ian Woolard the Council's Allotments officer and register as a helper (**JG**).

Lady Road - recently held their annual AGM (**PW**).

Northfield Avenue - Phil Dixon spoke about the history of Northfield Allotments which have been running for 4 years. The site is relatively small and has 19 plots. The main issue with the site is the lack of running water and the disincentive this creates has led to there being several vacant plots. The group has approached the Council about this matter but have been advised that there is no money in the allotment budget to allow for the work to connect the site to the mains water supply.

The original contractor who did the work to create the site was contacted and he estimated that the cost to provide mains running water on the site would be £5,500. This was considerably lower than previous estimates discussed with the Council. Some tools have been stolen from plots at Northfield Allotments (**PD**).

Redhall - no report (**PK**).

Telferton - had a very successful Gardens Open day on 5 August and raised £ 1700 mostly from the entrance fee (for Charity) and from teas and coffee sales (**DR**).

5. President's Report - The annual Allotment Show held on Saturday 8 September was a resounding success and the number of exhibits was significantly higher than in 2017. 'Thank you' to all who assisted in setting up the event and worked at the event on Saturday.

An enjoyable visit was made to the Dundee Flower show on Saturday 1st September. Unfortunately the event was not fully booked up.

The Chairman, Stuart McKenzie recently made a presentation to City Of Edinburgh Council Culture and Communities committee on FEDAGA's role in providing co-ordination between allotment sites, the protection of their interests and improvement of their conditions. He also commented on FEDAGA's input into the Allotment and Food Growing Provisions report and FEDAGA's concerns over the Council's proposals (paragraph 9.3 of that meeting refers) (**SMcK**).

6. **Secretary's report** - correction to previous minutes - Head Gardener at Edinburgh Zoo is called Robert Harden, not Hardew.

Suggestion for a talk by Charles Dowding on No Dig Policy received from Chris McKinnell. However the cost would be approximately £600. The committee did not wish to take up this suggestion.

An enquiry has been received from a resident near Letham Park concerning the future use of Letham Park as allotments and requesting contact details for the owner of the site. Residents immediately adjacent to the site had previously been informed by circulars of potential future plans for the park. At present it is used by the local branch of the Boys Brigade.

Request for contact details for Barons Court allotment site which has no committee. No one has come forward to replace the previous site rep who is cannot be contacted.

Report of a plot holder at Carrick Knowe allotment site who left his plot due to lack of help from the Council - overshadowed plot by a large tree but no action to remove offending tree. Oil allegedly poured into water butt (**EG**).

7. **Treasurer's report**- total assets at 3 September - £14,115.48.

Recent expenses - annual allotment show ; day trip to Dundee Flower Show (**DR**).

8. Other reports

Trading Report - no report

Action Point - Chairman to write to Brian Bleakley to enquire if he still wishes to continue to coordinate the annual potato/onion/shallot order.

Allotment maintenance priority list - no report.

Planning report- no matters of interest to report (**AH**).

Allotment Show Convenor's report - Sixty six people submitted exhibits. Last year there were 354 exhibits. This year there were 464 exhibits which is an increase of 31%. A full Report will be ready for the next meeting (**JG**).

9. **AOB** report to Council Culture and Communities committee on Allotments and Food growing provision (see President's report, para 5)

10. **Next Meeting** - Tuesday 9th October 2018 at Southside Community Centre 7.00pm

11. **AOCB** - the AGM will take place on **Tuesday 23rd October** at Southside Community Centre at 7.00pm. AGM packs were distributed to all Site Reps. several weeks ago including a nominations list for anyone wishing to stand for committee. Ian Woolard the Council's Allotments Officer has been invited to the meeting.

Action Point - EG to confirm with Ian Woolard that he will be attending.