



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Management Committee Meeting

7.15pm on 9th February 2016 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Committee: Peter Wright - Lady Road (**PW**) (President) : Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**) (Secretary) : Stuart MacKenzie - Inverleith (**SMcK**) : Maureen Edwards - Lady Road (**ME**) : Gilbert Clark - Midmar (**GC**) : John McKinlay - Craigentenny (**JMcK**) - Jon Gray - Warriston (**JG**) : Neiria McClure - Claremont Park (**NMcC**); Observers: Alexis McKay - Ferry Road (**AMcK**) : Margaret McLennan - Bridgend (**MMcL**) : Alison Hewitt - Warriston (**AH**) : Chris Hughes - Warriston (**CH**) : Diane Hughes - Warriston (**DH**).

1. Apologies: Dave Roberts - Restalrig (**DR**) : Rosy Naylor - West Mains (**RN**).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the 12th January meeting were proposed by **JMcK** and seconded by **PW**.

3. Matters Arising: Council Allotments Strategy - The next meeting of the Working Group will be on 29th February.

Telferton - PW reported on a meeting he has had with the Action Group. Currently there is no date set for the Planning hearing, but it may be on the 24th February. **PW** will address the Council for FEDAGA and he detailed the arguments he will make. **ACTION - PW**.

Allotment Show - SMcK reported on the preparations made to stage a Show this year. It was **AGREED** that the Show will be on Saturday 3rd September at the Methodist Church Hall, Nicolson Square; 28 trestle tables will be hired as the logistics of moving tables to and from allotment sites are too difficult; no charge will be made for entries; prize money will be given for certain categories; small traders will be invited to have stalls; details of classes will be posted on the website along with a downloadable entry form and **SMcK** will apply for National Vegetable Society membership to enable the NVS trophy to be awarded. The estimated cost will be in the region of £800, with potential to recoup some money

from stallholders. This represents about half of the cost of previous Shows. **JG** suggested that there be a donation bucket to help defray costs. **PW** will approach local politicians involved in allotment policies to present the prizes and also check on trophy engraving costs. **EW** said the poster will be an eye-catching black and white design to make it simpler for representatives to print off. **ACTION** - **SMcK, EW, ME, AH, NMcC** and **PW**.

4. Allotment Officer - No Allotment Officer Report had been received. It was **AGREED** that **NMcC** request a meeting to discuss spending priorities and the outcomes from the wall inspection currently being undertaken. **ACTION** - **NMcC**.

5. Consideration of Reports - Secretary's Report: **EW** said that a broken padlock at Stenhouse highlighted the fact no-one was delegated to deal with emergency situations in the Allotment Officer's absence. The problem was remedied and arrangements will be made to make appropriate provisions for the future. It is hoped the problem preventing sending off site fees to Dumbryden has been dealt with. Details of money for "Learning Journeys" available from the Communities Fund were given.

Mention of the West Mains "chuck and swap" event tied in with skip provision prompted discussion of waste disposal. **AMcK** said that Ferry Road operates a recycling area where potentially useful items can be passed on to new owners. **MMcL** reported that at Bridgend general rubbish and debris has had to be removed from the communal compost facilities. It was **AGREED** education is the key to preventing accumulation of rubbish from becoming a problem. FEDAGA has proposed to the Council a £100 deposit repayable on relinquishing a clean and tidy plot. This could be paid by new ploholders. This is analogous to a deposit payable on renting a flat, for example. The Council's position on this is that it is impracticable.

Leith Crops in Pots have suggested that a gate between Leith Links allotments and St. Mary's Primary School be created. This proposal has been passed on to the Leith Links representative. Bridgend Potato Day will be on 28th February and a poster for this has been circulated along with a poster advertising the FEDAGA Shop.

Website and Newsletter: **EW** said that items continue to be posted on the website and a February edition of the Newsletter will go out soon. The Allotment Show and Granton Castle Walled Garden will feature.

Treasurer's Report: **PW** reported that **DR** had received paperwork for the new signatories from the Bank of Scotland. This will be processed as soon as possible. **ACTION - DR.**

Trading Report: **EW** said the seed potato order will be delivered to Inverleith on 18th February, around 10.30am. Site representatives have been alerted. Those unable to attend should pick their order up from the FEDAGA Shop on 21st February between 2 and 3.30pm. A Shop rota was arranged. **EW** and **NMcC** on the 21st, **PW** and **ME** on the 28th and **SMcK** on 6th March.

Site Reports: **AH** said the unsatisfactory new fence at Warriston had been mentioned to the Allotment Officer. As installed, it provides no security at all. There was a discussion about imprecise job specifications, with various examples given, and how to ensure this could be prevented in future.

MMcL reported on a recent site meeting at Bridgend which was attended by over 20 members. Plans have been laid for improving and cleaning up parts of the site. She said dirty plots were becoming a real problem. This led to a discussion on the nature of site regulations and how they are so old they have become unusable as they are so open to legal challenge. For example there is no agreed legal definition of the word "cultivated". It might be useful for a case to go to Court to establish Common Law on the matter.

PW described plans for the implementation of new regulations. FEDAGA have made proposals and are waiting for the Council's response. Agreed proposals will have to go out for public consultation and come back for further discussion and agreement. This will have to be signed off by a Minister. It is understood the Edinburgh regulations will form a template for allotment law across Scotland.

NMcC reported a tree blown down at Claremont Park. **SMcK** said the large number of rabbits at Inverleith has become intolerable. A lot of badly kept plots were exacerbating this problem. **JMcK** said that on reporting missed bin uplifts at Craigentenny it transpired that other sites were suffering the same problem. **JG** said Warriston was one of them.

SAGS Report: PW said liaison work regarding preparation for the Telferton hearing has taken place. A consultation on guidelines for implementation of the Community Empowerment Act is expected shortly.

6. Any Other Business: JG reported that at Warriston, which is a site with water meters, ploholders had been turning the water supply on. This is unauthorised interference with a utility and it was pointed out that it may cause those responsible to risk being evicted from the site. In the past burst pipes caused by frost had caused a lot of damage and unnecessary expenditure for the Council.

7. Date of Next Meeting: 8th March.