



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Management Committee Meeting
7.15pm on 12th July 2016 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Committee: Peter Wright - Lady Road (**PW**) : Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**) (Secretary) : Dave Roberts - Restalrig (**DR**) (Treasurer) : Stuart McKenzie - Inverleith (**SMcK**) : Neira McClure - Claremont Park (**NMcC**) : John McKinlay - Craigentenny (**JohnMcK**) : John Gray - Warriston (**JG**) : Maureen Edwards - Lady Road (**ME**) : Paul Kerr - Redhall (**PK**) : Brian Bleakley - Midmar (**BB**); Observers: Allison Hewitt - Warriston (**AH**) : Alexis McKay - Ferry Road (**AMcK**) : Diane Hughes - Warriston (**DH**) : Chris Hughes - Warriston (**CH**) : Jenny McKenzie (Dumbryden) (**JennyMcK**) : Rosina Weightman - Saughton Mains (**RW**) : Mary Simpson - Saughton Mains (**MS**).

1. Apologies: Gilbert Clark - Midmar (**GC**) : Alice Bain - Warriston (**AB**) : Willie Aitken - Carrick Knowe (**WA**).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the 14th June meeting were proposed by **JohnMcK** and seconded by **JG**.

3. Matters Arising - Allotment Show: **SMcK** ran through an exhaustive list of items to be attended to and volunteers to take responsibility were identified. **AMcK** was thanked for arranging for the printing and distribution of Show Schedules. A few remaining schedules were distributed to be delivered by hand. **PW** has secured the services of a judge to officiate on the day.

Council Allotment Strategy: **PW** said that there continues to be no signs of movement from the Council and the process is still on hold. It was noted that the Allotment Officer has relocated to Waverley Court, East Market Street.

Payment of Subscriptions - DR said that he had been assured that the subscription money has been paid by the Council, but he is unable to get access to the current account and so cannot confirm this.

Venue for August meeting - It was **AGREED** that the next meeting take place at Midmar. **ACTION - BB** to make arrangements. It was noted the Southside Community Centre is available for the September meeting.

AGM - ME said that the Southside Community Centre is unavailable on the proposed date for the AGM. It was **AGREED** to reschedule the AGM on the 25th of October. **EW** will arrange for papers to reflect this and have them issued by early August. **ACTION - EW.** **EW** said he had been contacted by a member concerned about New Zealand Flatworms who had been in touch with Dr. Boag of the James Hutton Institute, Dundee. It was **AGREED** to invite Dr. Boag to speak at the AGM, or perhaps attend the Allotment Show to speak to ploholders. **ACTION - SMcK.**

4. Allotment Officer - There was no Report from the Allotment Officer.

Spending Priorities - **NMcC** has asked for a costing for the urgently required gate repair at Lady Road, but had not received a reply or progress update. **ME** said there had been discussion between Lady Road and Bridgend representatives about the wisdom of having a leaf mould bay as experience showed that the facility was regularly abused by a minority of ploholders throwing rubbish and non-compostable material in it. **JG** reported that at long last wall repairs had been completed at Warriston although he had some misgivings about how the work had been finished and said that he had advised the workmen some trees should have been felled to prevent their roots from damaging a nearby sewer pipe. The contractors were not aware of the location of the pipe. **PW** referred to the recent flooding at Lady Road and said that all Councillors had been informed of the event and how it had been exacerbated by debris in the Pow Burn and culvert under the road. His point was that if they are informed they cannot plead ignorance later. **NMcC** said there is no meeting scheduled with the Allotment Officer.

5. Consideration of Reports - Secretary's Report: **EW** had circulated this prior to the meeting. The main points were items provided by the Allotment Officer concerning a visit to Edinburgh by a Singaporean National Parks official looking at allotments and community gardens and the Duddingston Community Field which may be of interest to those on the waiting list. This had been publicised in the recent Newsletter. There had also been correspondence on the use of weedkiller that had possibly contaminated an adjoining plot due to wind-drift. This would be addressed in a future edition.

Treasurer's Report: **DR** said that he still does not have ready access to the current account. The Bank of Scotland has now informed him they require to see details of past and proposed signatories set out in an official Minute. For the record, the most recent officially recognised signatories are:

R Clark, A Reid, G Sutherland, J Sutherland and P Venn.

The prospective signatories will be **D Roberts, P Wright, E Watt and B Bleakley.**

DR intends to have internet access to the account to enable up to date reports to be given in future. As it had been agreed to pay out subscription money to sites including all trading rebates regardless of whether the Council had paid subscription money to FEDAGA, **DR** was in a position to write cheques to all sites.

ACTION - DR.

ME asked that FEDAGA pay the Southside Community Centre £20 for group membership and an additional £5 per Management Committee member as a goodwill gesture. It was explained that by so doing, FEDAGA secured the use of the meeting room for a sum considerably less than would otherwise be required. It was **AGREED** that this will be paid after the AGM. **ACTION - DR.**

Trading: **BB** said he had looked at the Kings Seeds catalogue for seed potatoes, onion sets and shallots and said prices were broadly comparable with the present supplier. The clear benefit of changing was that if the order went in by the end of November there is a 99% guarantee that what is ordered will be supplied. Members were increasingly disgruntled with the increasing number of late

substitutions in recent years. It was **AGREED** to place this year's order with Kings. It was further agreed that garlic should not be included in the bulk order scheme but its availability via the online scheme will be publicised in September in good time for planting out. **ACTION - EW**. An article explaining all this will be prepared for the Newsletter. **ACTION - SMcK**.

Site Reports: ME said that Lady Road had been flooded again. This time all plots were affected and the flood waters reached a depth of over a metre. After years of fruitless effort to have the problem addressed by the Council and Scottish Water it must now be recognised that the site is a flood plain and will be regularly affected, probably with increasing frequency. A team of volunteers had worked to clear debris from the watercourse and from under the culvert.

JG noted that the builders who had worked on the wall repairs at Warriston had left behind a brand new hut. **AH** said the AGM will be held on 11th September.

JennyMcK said a new committee had recently been formed at Dumbryden and had succeeded in getting the Council to agree that the site had been set up with insufficient resources, which they were now working to remedy.

NMcC said a work party of around 18 to 20 at Claremont Park had filled 2 transit van loads of rubbish which was disposed of at Seafield. She said the officials there let the van through when the driver provided proof of residency in Edinburgh. After the work was done all enjoyed a well-earned barbeque.

PK said the Redhall committee is due to meet this week to make arrangements for the AGM.

DR said the Telferton Open Day will be held between 2 and 5 on 7th August. He also reported that the Reporter for the Scottish Government had refused the developer's appeal against the Council's decision to reject development on the allotments. He said a site visit had gone well with the Reporter commenting that the site was well used and neat and tidy. He concluded there was no justification for overturning the Council's decision. This establishes a legal precedent and calls into question past decisions made by the Council to allow development on allotment sites. It shows that well looked after and organised sites can successfully fight off hostile takeovers. It is hoped that the allotment can now be subject to a community buy-out under Land Reform legislation.

DR and **JohnMcK** both reported intermittent waste uplifts at Restalrig and Craigentenny, respectively. **SMcK** said that the Inverleith bin was emptied and then stolen before it could be brought back on site. The Trade Waste service is supposed to be continuing after having been privatised.

BB said Midmar will hold an Open Day between 2.30 and 4.30 on 20th August.

SAGS Report: DH, CH and **JennyMcK** had attended the SAGS Conference and gave a report back. It was **AGREED** that **JennyMcK** be the FEDAGA representative to SAGS.

6. Any Other Business: As the recent visit to SASA was such a success it was hoped to organise a second visit this summer. **ACTION - SMcK**.

7. Date of Next Meeting: 9th August 2016 at Midmar.