



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Management Committee Meeting

7.15pm on 14th June 2016 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Committee: Stuart McKenzie - Inverleith (**SMcK**) (Acting Chair) : Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**) (Secretary) : Neira McClure - Claremont Park (**NMcC**) : John McKinlay - Craigentenny (**JMcK**) : John Gray - Warriston (**JG**) : Maureen Edwards - Lady Road (**ME**) : Paul Kerr - Redhall (**PK**); Observers: Allison Hewitt - Warriston (**AH**) : Alice Bain - Warriston (**AB**) : Alexis McKay - Ferry Road (**AMcK**) : Jane Robinson - West Mains (**JR**).

1. Apologies: Peter Wright - Lady Road (**PW**) : Dave Roberts - Restalrig (**DR**) : Gilbert Clark - Midmar (**GC**) : Rosy Naylor - West Mains (**RN**).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the 10th May meeting were proposed by **EW** and seconded by **JG**. **JMcK** was thanked for providing these.

3. Matters Arising - Council Allotment Strategy: **SMcK** said that there is nothing to report. The Parks and Greenspace Department is reported to be undergoing a reorganisation and there is now no date for the next meeting of the Allotment Strategy Steering Group. Progress appears to be on hold.

Allotment Show: **ME** said she was not alone in being annoyed that the schedule and registration forms are only available online. **SMcK** said it had been agreed to proceed this way as printing and mailing out Show Schedules would cost around £500. It was **AGREED** that a couple of printed schedules be sent out to all site reps so that hard copies are available to those without internet access. Registration forms will be available on the morning of the show. **AMcK** will arrange for printing and mailing. **SMcK** will provide a covering letter. Publicity posters will be sent out with this mailing. **ACTION** - **AMcK** and **SMcK**.

AH said that the response to the appeal for prizes from sponsors has been disappointing. **NMcC** said there had been no further offers from potential stallholders. **EW** said he had been alerted to the possibility of the Urban Biodiversity Project Officer from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh delivering a talk. This may be adapted for the Show, or used at

the AGM. **EW** will provide details to **SMcK**. **ACTION - EW**. The possibility of having a representative from the Edinburgh and Midlothian Beekeepers' Association will also be explored. **ACTION - SMcK**.

It was **AGREED** that the quote for rosettes were too expensive and cards with stickers will be used instead.

Collection of Subscriptions: SMcK reported that the matter now lies with the Council. A response is still awaited on the request to include a statement in the rent invoice about the advantages of remaining a member of the Site Association and FEDAGA to encourage all ploholders to consent to payment of subscriptions.

Allotment Insurance: DR has been in correspondence with an insurance supplier but the deal for individual ploholders is complicated and it was decided it is impractical. It would only be possible to insure a shed by securing it with a padlock and metal bar across the door. It was **AGREED** that it would be unlikely that many ploholders would take this up. Insurance for the Allotment Show has been secured. Sites committees are encouraged to take out insurance to cover their Open Days.

4. Allotment Officer - There were no Reports from the Allotment Officer. **Spending Priorities - NMCC** had met with the Allotment Officer to discuss the items noted on the spreadsheet she had shared with the committee. Since this had been circulated there were some changes to report. The Allotment Officer is seeking agreement to proceed with the following priority items: Cambridge Avenue - supply whin dust; Dumbryden - improve paths; Warriston - extend water supply; West Mains - improve security at fence along back of site; Northfield Drive - repair fence; Saughton Mains - refelt chalet roof; Claremont Park - put mesh on fence; Bridgend - provide bin store for leaf mould; Midmar - install sleepers on steep slope to prevent soil erosion. It was **AGREED** to approve all these items with the exception of the Bridgend work as it was believed that this should be paid for by a Waste Aware grant instead of money from the allotment budget. **ACTION - NMCC** to take this forward with the Allotment Officer.

NMCC said that the recent application by Stenhouse for an improved water provision had been discussed. The Allotment Officer felt that the two stand pipes should be enough. He would look at installing double headed taps and also said that snagging work at this site would be attended to.

ME said the repair work to the gate at Lady Road was overdue and the gate is deteriorating to the extent that it is now difficult to use and

potentially dangerous. **NMcC** will raise this item as a matter of urgency.
ACTION - NMcC.

5. Consideration of Reports - Secretary's Report: **EW** had circulated this prior to the meeting. A Newsletter had been issued which had elicited a relatively large response concerning the possibility of strimmer provision to tackle the problem of long grass on paths. **SMcK** said FEDAGA should consider investigating the potential of collectively buying a decent number of strimmers to benefit from a bulk discount. Their use could be administered by site associations. Items that may appear in future Newsletters include feedback from the waiting list survey and advice on water harvesting. **ACTION - JMcK and EW.**

Treasurer's Report: **DR** had circulated a report prior to the meeting. Recent transactions comprised the following items of expenditure - £27.50 for extra shallots (WCF Horticulture); £179.70 outstanding dues to Dumbryden; £75 annual subscription to SAGS; £45 outstanding dues to Hutchison Loan; £38.50 stationery printing; £75 public liability insurance for Allotment Show (BGI); £6.99 onion bags. Expenses committed but not yet banked: £35 posters for Allotment Show and £26.94 to rabbit proof the FEDAGA Shop. The current account is £6010.37 before committed expenses are applied and the bond is £4519.68. Subsequent to the report **DR** has advised that two items of income should also be noted: £416 commission from Kings Seeds (to be reimbursed to sites) and £224 shop income. He also reported that he is pressing the Allotment Officer to ensure the subscriptions are paid promptly. **ACTION - DR.**

Trading: **SMcK** had received information about last year's seed potato and onion set orders enabling him to advise Kings Seeds how much FEDAGA would be likely to order this year. It should be emphasised to members that Kings will guarantee to supply any order made before the end of November. **EW** said a repetition of the large number of replacement potatoes and poor quality onion sets which caused such upset amongst the membership cannot be repeated. **ACTION - SMcK.**

Site Reports: **JG** said recent rebuilding of a dangerous wall at Warriston had been completed. He understood the costs were not to be borne by the allotment budget. He also said the crack in the wall by the gate and the subsidence to the pavement is increasing further and has yet to be attended to. **AB** said that the new Warriston website had just gone live.

ME said the action day at Lady Road had been a great success with a larger than usual number of volunteers helping out. A new fence, paid for out of site funds had been installed and the area in question cleaned up.

JR said West Mains Open Day is set for 7th August. She also drew attention to the recently revamped West Mains website.

JMcK reported that a self-repair had successfully been completed on a leaky standpipe. He estimated this may have saved the allotment budget £200. However, the intermittent uplift of waste bins was continuing to be a problem.

SMcK said the apprentice beds at Inverleith had been improved. This prompted discussion on apprentice beds and it was **AGREED** an approach to the Allotment Officer be made to enquire if the unused raised beds at Powderhall Bowling Green could be made available to those at the top of the Warriston waiting list. **ACTION - AB.**

SAGS Report: **EW** said the SAGS Annual Conference is on 18th June.

6. Any Other Business: **ME** said that venues are required for the 9th August and 13th September meetings as the Southside Community Centre will be occupied by Fringe productions. It was **AGREED** to decide upon venues next month. Accommodation in the Community Centre will be booked for the following year's Management Committee and Annual General Meetings. **ACTION - ME.**

SMcK reminded the meeting that **PW** is standing down as President at the AGM. It was established that no-one is willing to serve in this post.

SMcK said that, this being so, he would be prepared to stand as President if nominated. There followed a general discussion on how FEDAGA should position itself to best represent members in the coming years.

7. Date of Next Meeting: 12th July 2016.