



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

***Management Committee Meeting
7.15pm on 13th October 2015 at Southside Community Centre***

Present: Peter Wright - Lady Road (**PW**) (President) : Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**) (Secretary) : Maureen Edwards - Lady Road (**ME**) : Paul Kerr - Redhall (**PK**) : Jon Gray - Warriston (**JG**) : Dave Roberts - Restalrig (**DR**) : Brian Bleakley - Midmar (**BB**) : John McKinlay - Craigentenny (**JMcK**) : Gilbert Clark - Midmar (**GC**) : Rosy Naylor - West Mains (**RN**) : Willie Aitken - Carrick Knowe (**WA**) (observer).

1. Apologies: Neiria McClure - Claremont Park (**NMcC**) : Stuart MacKenzie - Inverleith (**SMcK**) : Rik Hart - Warriston (**RH**) : Alan Wilson (Stenhouse) (**AW**).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the 11th August meeting were approved. The meeting on 8th September was inquorate.

3. Matters Arising: Management of Council Allotments - PW reported that he believed the meeting between the Council and the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens was inconclusive. There has been no word from the Council on this. The Backgreens Initiative have not responded. An approach to Cllr. Lesley Hinds has resulted in a date for a Strategy Group meeting being arranged for 26th October. It is hoped to take the matter forward then as well as address other issues such as inspection of plots and the ploholders' survey.

Telferton - DR said that things have gone quiet. The developer's proposal is expected imminently whereupon there will be a 21 day period for comments and objections. Meanwhile, plots have been offered to charities including Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Apple Press - DR said he understood the Apple Press to have been well used on its tour of Midmar, Restalrig, Saughton Mains and Inverleith.

4. Allotment Officer - No report has been received.

5. Consideration of Reports - Secretary's Report: EW had circulated a Report detailing all correspondence over the month. In particular, there has been an approach from Dunfermline to join FEDAGA. It was **AGREED** that as FEDAGA does not deal with Fife Council it would be better if a Fife Allotments Forum was set up. Advice has been offered to help facilitate this. There would be no objection to an application to join to participate in the Trading and Seed Schemes.

EW said that **SMcK** was getting good feedback from participants in the Heritage Potato project and he intends to repeat the exercise next year.

Website and Newsletter: EW said the website has had 226 unique visitors and 891 page views last week. The Newsletter now has 649 subscribers. As some site reps use their e-mail cascade system to send it on, the Newsletter is probably seen by a greater number.

AGM: PW confirmed that he is prepared to stand as President for one final year. **EW** said nominations for all present office bearers and committee members have been received. **PW** will circulate his President's address to the committee prior to the meeting. He confirmed that Lesley Hinds will not be able to attend as guest speaker. **ME** suggested that a proposal made at last month's inquorate meeting to see if there is support for a one-off Allotment Show should be put to the AGM. This was **AGREED**. It was noted that **SMcK** had made proposals for such a show at last month's inquorate meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Paperwork has now been received for the new bank signatories, **DR** and **EW**. As **DR** will not receive statements directly until this is completed the latest report is only to 20th August. In the period from 29th July there is no income noted. The opening bank balance is £7379.02. Expenditure to Pilrig Park, Restalrig, Saughton Mains, Inverleith, West Mains, Redhall, Chesser Crescent, Wester Hailes and Lady Road for site fees, trading and seed schemes totals £758.25. Payments have been made to Prospect Bank, Baronscourt, Bridgend, Craigentenny, Chesser Crescent and India Place totaling £245.67 but not yet cashed. Sites without accounts, Dumbryden, Findlay Avenue and Hutchison Loan have £232.70 held for them in trust. The bank balance on 20th August was £6620.77. Committed expenditure is £478.37, leaving a balance of £6142.40. Adding the bond, £4510.56, results in total assets of £10,652.96.

DR has prepared the accounts for presentation to the AGM and they have been examined and approved by **NMcC** and John Grace (Midmar). He is waiting for **NMcC**'s return from holiday to have the papers signed. **ACTION - DR**.

ME said that the £20 annual membership to the Southside Community Centre is due. It was **AGREED** to pay this and also make a contribution of £50 to cover a nominal membership for 10 committee members as a goodwill gesture. It was noted that the overall expenditure of £70 represents extremely good value for money in providing a regular meeting space. **ACTION - DR**.

Trading Report: BB presented his proposed seed potato varieties which include three new ones: Organic Colleen, Mozart and Divaa. Papers will be distributed to Site Reps this week with a closing date for orders of 27th November. The delivery will be on a Monday or Tuesday in the third week of February - final details to be confirmed. It was **AGREED** that any outlay for parking charges will be covered by FEDAGA. It was acknowledged that the number of orders has declined over recent years, partly due to Saughton Mains operating their own trading scheme and the ready availability of seed potatoes in many retail outlets. However, it was emphasised that for those willing to make a payment in November they will make a big saving on costs and also contribute to their site funds: 50p per bag of potatoes and 25p per bag of onions. **ACTION - BB**.

WA offered to take responsibility for the loose onion sets. He will collect these from the wholesaler and have them bagged and ready for uplift with the potatoes. **ACTION - WA**.

Site Reports: JG said a whole section of perimeter fence had been removed from Warriston. It has since been replaced, but the gap in the fence previously reported has yet to be repaired. **EW** said **RH** had alerted Ian Woolard to the recent break-ins at Warriston. He was also concerned about the inaction on apparently abandoned plots where Himalayan Balsam is growing and causing problems for neighbouring plotters.

WA reported further vandalism at Carrick Knowe over the school holidays with stones again being thrown from the tram track bed. This time, ploholders' cars were being targeted. He said that he had asked Ian Woolard to provide the Police with a key for the site but this had not yet happened.

ME said a successful AGM and barbeque had been held at Lady Road.

RN said that after an inquorate AGM a few months ago, a well attended SGM was held at West Mains at which a new constitution was agreed. **PW** requested a copy of this for his files. **ACTION - RN**. The of lure free compost and a speaker on managing soil-borne disease and had attracted 25 ploholders.

GC said a conversation with a ploholder at Midmar alerted him to the problems faced by flat-dwelling ploholders who don't have access to unheated and frost-free outside storage in which to keep produce such as potatoes. Leaving tubers in the soil until they are required is not ideal as they can be preyed upon by slugs. He said that communal on-site storage facilities should be provided by the Council.

EW said he had a report from **SMcK** on the escalating rabbit problem at Inverleith. An unacceptably high number of dirty plots are harbouring vermin. Derelict huts need to be dealt with before eradication can be successful.

EW also noted correspondence with **AW** on the ongoing concerns at Stenhouse over the pile of rubbish by the gate and perceived irregularities in the management of the waiting list.

Strategy Report: **PW** referred to the proposal to reconvene the Allotment Strategy Working Group on the 26th of October. It was **AGREED** that he will attend along with **DR, JMcK** and **EW**. **ACTION - PW, DR, JMcK and EW**.

SAGS Report: There had been a SAGS meeting on 10th October but no-one from FEDAGA was able to attend. It is hoped that in due course FEDAGA can again send a representative to participate in SAGS activity.

6. Any Other Business: None.

7. Date of Next Meeting: 10th November.