



THE FEDERATION OF  
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT  
ALLOTMENTS AND  
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

## ***FEDAGA Management Team Meeting***

***7.00pm on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at Southside Community Centre***

**Present :** Ernie Watt(**EW**) (Cambridge Ave); Elizabeth Grace (**EG**) (Secretary); John Grace (**JG**) (Allotment Show); Maureen Edwards(**ME**) (Lady Road); Paul Kerr (**PK**) (Redhall) (Minutes); Alison Hewitt (**AH**)(Warriston); Neiria McClure (**NMcC**) (Claremont Park); Margaret Williamson (**MW**) (Stenhouse); Yvonne Dawe (**YD**)(Saughton Mains); David Morrice (**DM**) (Restalrig) ; Alice Bain (**AB**) (Warriston); Edward Irvine (**EI**)(Saughton Mains)

1. **Apologies:** Stuart McKenzie (SMcK) (Inverleith) (President); Dave Roberts (DR) (Craigentinny; Telferton) (Treasurer); Stewart Swarbrick (SS)(Ferry Rd); Janet Bradbury (JB) (Saughton Mains); Pamela McKie ( PMcK) (Letham Park) ; Peter Wright (PW)(Lady Rd.)

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 8 October 2019 had been Circulated and were approved. Proposed by NMcC and seconded by JG.

### **3. Matters Arising /Action Points**

The increased cost of the hall hire for the allotment show this year has been taken up by DR with the hall management and we are hoping for a reduction in the bill. The facilities at the hall were not as good as in previous years as the Café was not operating. FEDAGA is looking at other options for next year's show. An earlier date in the calendar is also being considered but this may be difficult with the Festival dates.

### **4. Site Reports**

**Restalrig (DM)** – no report

**Lady Road (ME)** – no report

**Stenhouse (MW)**– enquired about which banks/building societies other sites used for Banking site funds, as they are finding it difficult with the RBOS. They have had two bee hives On their site for five years and the bees are doing well. Plot holders have been planting wild flowers to encourage the bees.

**Claremont (NMcC)** – they had their TSB account blocked as TSB said that they no longer managed the old type of account they had. They had a really good clear up weekend at their site in October and removed six transit vans worth of cuttings. This was disposed of at the civic amenity site at Seafield.

**Warriston (AH)** – Warriston allotments had their AGM on 3 November .They had special permission from the BBC to show the film on BBC i-player of fox activity on the site. Thirty six people attended from the 120 (approx.) plots on site . The main discussion was about foxes. Most people on the site

are pro-foxes. AH and AB met with Ian Woolard the Council's Allotments Officer to discuss the planned wildlife bog. They are trying to develop the area of boggy ground where a lot of willow trees and undergrowth have been removed to create an area which encourages wildlife. The drainage is not good in this area and there is an underground pipe which takes ground water to the Water of Leith.

**Midmar (JG)** - Midmar are hoping to organise a Barbeque for 1 or 2 January 2020 to encourage community spirit on the site.

ME commented that some plot holders may just want to keep to themselves. EW commented on recent fruit pilfering incidents on other sites and people not looking out for each other.

**Redhall (PK)** - Beth who previously had several hives at Redhall has left and a new beekeeper has taken over the site allocated for bee hives. All appears to be going well.

JG commented on domestic bees passing on disease to wild bees, a subject which had caused some controversy at Midmar. The subject is still under research. JG also commented on hedgehogs at Midmar of which there are two known. They are very good for slug control.

**Cambridge Avenue (EW)** – they have their bank account with the CO-OP bank.

EW proposed an **Action Point** for DR to contact Volunteer Edinburgh – co-ordinating body for voluntary organisations, to get advice on how banks treat small voluntary organisations.

Plot holders at Cambridge Ave have had heated debates in the past about feeding foxes on site.

**Telferton/Craigentenny** – no report

**Ferry Road (SS)** - a large sycamore is to be removed from the site as it is diseased. Gardeners World has contacted SAGS to find a site in Edinburgh which is attractive and diverse. EW suggested Craigentenny/Telferton to put forward as a suggestion.

## **5. President's Report (SMcK)**

No report

## **6. Secretary's Report (EG)**

All sites are to check the grid reference location of their sites on the list previously circulated. The updated list will then be sent to the Scottish Ambulance Service.

## **7. Treasurer's Report (DR)**

The Treasurer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Current balance (total assets) - £ 13,659.01

**Action Point (EG)** – an updated FEDAGA committee members contact details list is to be sent out to all attendees at the meeting.

JG commented that a group photo of the FEDAGA committee should be taken after next year's AGM. JG also commented on the organisation known as Edible Edinburgh / Growing Food Locally. MW commented on Edinburgh Partner Gardeners an organisation which helps cultivate pieces of land not being used.

ME commented on the proposal at the AGM to train FEDAGA members to be First Aiders – did not think this was a good idea as it would only benefit the person receiving the training and not allotment sites in Edinburgh as a whole.

JG commented that it is not clear who is legally responsible if someone had a fall on a site.

ME made a proposal that if a site had a small amount of work needing done then potentially they could apply to FEDAGA for a grant up to a maximum amount to be determined.

EW expressed a note of caution that the organisations funds were very limited and could quickly run out if a large number of grant applications were to be received. He reminded the Committee that every site receives £2 back from FEDAGA for every plot holder.

JG suggested other ways could be used to raise funds for a site including a lottery type scheme where plot holders subscribed to a scheme every month and half of the money went to site every month. A fee could be charged for entry into the annual allotment show.

EI enquired if anyone knew or had any links to a haulage company. NWH had previously been used by one site to transport manure from Edinburgh Zoo. Warriston have used NWH in the past. EW commented on Tip Hereth which collects green garden waste in Edinburgh and uses it to produce garden compost.

[www.tiphereth.org.uk](http://www.tiphereth.org.uk)

**9. Maintenance (NMCC)**

No report

**10. Planning (AH)**

No report

**11. Trading (BB)**

No report

**12. AOCB – None**

**13. Next Meeting - 10 December 2019**