



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Management Committee Meeting

7.15pm on 8th March 2016 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Committee: Peter Wright - Lady Road (**PW**) (President) : Dave Roberts - Restalrig (**DR**) (Treasurer) : 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**) : Paul Kerr - Redhall (**PK**) : Rosy Naylor - West Mains (**RN**);
Observers: Willie Aitken - Carrick Knowe (**WA**) : Alexis McKay - Ferry Road (**AMcK**) : Alison Hewitt - Warriston (**AH**) : Chris Hughes - Warriston (**CH**) : Susie Solis - Bridgend (**SS**).

1. Apologies: Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the 9th February meeting were proposed by **NMcC** and seconded by **JG**. It was **AGREED JMcK** act as Minute Secretary.

3. Matters Arising: Council Allotment Strategy - SMcK said a further meeting was held on 29th February at which representatives of the Council advised that rents would increase by £4 for a full plot and proportionally for half plots. They also advised that Association Fees of £2.50 would need to be shown separately on the invoice. Consequently, the invoice for a full plot would show: £104 Rent plus £2.50 Association Fee giving a total of £106.50. The invoice would further state that if a Tenant did not wish to pay the Association Fee they should contact the Allotment Officer and the £2.50 would be removed. **SMcK** stated that if numbers of plot holders decided not to pay this fee it would have repercussions for FEDAGA and sites. **PW** explained that the £2.50 was broken down as follows: 50p to meet FEDAGA administration costs, £1 towards the Allotment Show and £1 which is remitted to sites on the basis of £1 per plot holder for use at the

discretion of the plot holders. There followed a wide ranging and useful discussion on how FEDAGA might deal with this, particularly if a significant number of plot holders decided to decline to pay the fee. This would affect FEDAGA and site funds and also the financial support of the Allotment Show.

Suggestions included dropping this fee entirely but making all plot holders automatically members of FEDAGA. Ways would have to be found to cover administrative costs and support the Allotment Show and sites would have to find ways to replace the money received through the Association Fee. Alternatively, part only of the fee could be collected for example the 50p administration costs plus the £1 for sites, or the fee could be left unchanged to see what could be raised on an effectively voluntary basis.

It was **AGREED** to ask representatives to canvass the views of plot holders at their next site meeting and report back. **ACTION - All Site Representatives.**

It was also advised that the Council would survey those on the waiting list to check what size of plot they would prefer. The three sizes are full plot, half plot or some smaller size with the applicant to advise.

Telferton Planning Application - DR reported that things were quiet with no date yet for any hearing, although the Planning Department only need to give 6 days notice of such. Some interpreted this as a positive sign that the application may be rejected without a formal hearing.

Allotment Show - **SMcK** stated that preparations for the Show were going well with venue, tables, judges and prize givers all organised. FEDAGA had joined the National Vegetable Society so that their medal could be given to the Best Vegetable Exhibit in Show. A letter was being prepared to go to garden suppliers asking for horticultural type items to be given as prizes. The main aspect yet to be arranged is insurance for the show and as to whether or not this should be

expanded to include cover for any site that intended having an Open Day or Show of their own.

4. Allotment Officer - There was no Report from the Allotment Officer. **NMcC** had met with him to discuss site spending priorities. The list, with existing requested works, had been circulated to site reps with a request for any additional works to be submitted.

5. Consideration of Reports - The **Secretary's Report** had been circulated. A Newsletter had been issued highlighting the rent increase and other relevant items.

Treasurer's Report - Circulated by **DR** stating that financial matters had been quiet and that the Association had £10,639.72 in hand. If it was decided not to ask for the Association Fee (see item 3), and leaving aside the Allotment Show, there would be sufficient funds to pay for administrative expenses for a number of years.

Trading Report - In the absence of the Trading Secretary there was no information but the delivery of potatoes, onions and shallots had taken place and orders passed to site reps. Various attendees commented on the poor quality of both the potatoes (some far too large to be seed potatoes) and the onions (many sets were soft). There were also complaints about the substitution of 5 varieties of potatoes when those ordered were not available. **PW** noted that these issues would need to be considered when making next year's order. **SMcK** noted that there was a considerable quantity of Red Sun shallots left over and they would be available at the FEDAGA Shop this Sunday.

Site Reports - **JMcK** and **AH** reported that there were still problems with waste uplift at Craigentenny and Warriston respectively. **JMcK** said that there had only been one uplift per month at Craigentenny this year. **RN** said that West Mains were holding a "Chuck and Swap" to encourage recycling and tidy sites, and had hired a skip for £200.

SAGS Report - PW indicated that SAGS were still busy with matters arising from the new legislation affecting allotments.

6. Any Other Business - SMcK stated that a trial, similar to last year, of SASA's seed potatoes would take place again this year. He will email out soon looking for volunteers. Any plot holders interested should leave space for 3 tubers.

7. Date of Next Meeting - 12th April 2016.