



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Management Committee Meeting
7.15pm on 11th July 2017 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Committee: Dave Roberts - Craigentiny Telferton (**DR**) (Treasurer, Acting Chair) : Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**) (Secretary) : Alison Hewitt - Warriston (**AH**) : John Grace - Midmar (**JG**) : Brian Bleakley - Midmar (**BB**) : Maureen Edwards - Lady Road (**ME**) : Paul Kerr - Redhall (**PK**); Observer: Stuart Swarbrick - Ferry Road (**SS**).

1. Apologies: Stuart McKenzie - Inverleith (**SMcK**) : Mary Simpson - Saughton Mains (**MS**) : Gilbert Clark - Midmar (**GC**) : Alice Bain - Warriston (**AB**) : Neiria McClure - Claremont Park (**NMcC**) : David Morrice - Restalrig (**DM**) : Willie Aitken - Carrick Knowe (**WA**).

2. Actions and Approval of Minutes of 13th June: The Minutes were approved by **AH** and seconded by **JG**. It was noted that the Inverleith newsletter has been added to the Links page of the website.

3. Site Reports: **ME** reported an act of vandalism at Lady Road. The old padlock, which was due to be replaced, was rendered unusable by a key having been stuck in it and sawn off. The lock had to be removed with boltcutters. The cost of replacing the padlock plus issuing everyone with new keys was around £400. The Allotment Officer responded to this very promptly. As an aside it has transpired that the Police are not interested in taking a new key and will not be incorporating the allotment in their patrols.

SS reported continuing problems with the Trade Waste Bin at Ferry Road. The uplifts are erratic and recently have not taken place at all. The latest excuse is that the contractor claims to have lost the allotment key. On a more positive note, the old communal shredder has been disinterred from the shed and serviced. With a safety talk it is available for use again. It is likely that tree work will be arranged to coincide with a date when the crematorium chapel is closed for repairs. **SS** wanted it noted that the repairs to the toilet block referred to in **NMcC**'s report [item 7] were done by ploholders and paid for out of site funds.

AH said that the Allotment Officer has visited Warriston to look at the trees to be pruned. It was impressed on him that the priority is the trees shading plots. Work has continued on the communal area which has been strimmed and covered with tarpaulin. This will be used for events such as barbeques and other communal activities. It had been hoped to place nursery beds there but the poor quality of the ground prevents this as it is filled with rubble and rubbish.

JG told of a recent visit to Midmar by the Allotment Officer who noted various neglected plots. He was aware of the circumstances of a few individuals and impressed site representatives with his thorough knowledge of plots and ploholders. He believed that the general state of plots at Midmar is improving. A problem caused by an outsized netting structure has been resolved. Rats, believed to be living under huts, were reported and a pest control operative arrived the following day. It has been agreed that site representatives will meet up with him on his regular visits on a quarterly basis. The Midmar Open Day will take place on 19th August. This will be a special event celebrating 100 years and will include musicians and a scarecrow festival.

PK said Redhall are having a committee meeting on 29th July and extended an invitation to those present.

DR said the Craigentenny Telferton Open Day is on 6th August, as reported last month.

4. Secretary's Report: **EW** had circulated a written report. He noted that the blog, started last November, had attracted no contributions since its inception and no comments. He proposed to delete it. However, after discussion, it was **AGREED** to promote it in the Newsletter again and see if it can generate interest. It was recognised that a blog can be a useful communication tool amongst members.

ACTION - EW.

There was discussion about the viability of FEDAGA-sponsored van hire membership for affiliated site associations that need to transport items but this was set aside as the practicalities of operating such a scheme would be too difficult.

EW reminded the meeting that the AGM will take place on 24th October. A potential speaker was discussed and it was **AGREED** to approach the new Convenor of the Transport and Environment Committee, Cllr. Lesley Macinnes.

ACTION - EW. He said that after 8 years writing the Minutes he had decided that it is time to stand aside and hoped that another volunteer would come forward to act as Secretary. He will issue AGM papers in August and proposed that last month's resolution to increase the amount of money going back to site associations be formalised in a motion to the AGM. This was **AGREED. ACTION - EW.**

5. Treasurer's Report: **DR** had circulated a statement showing income of £438.20 from Kings Seeds in respect of FEDAGA's dividend on orders; and expenditure of £1185.80 in respect of subscriptions and trading scheme dividends to Carrick Knowe, Stenhouse, Cambridge Avenue, Warriston, Inverleith, Midmar and Lady Road. He commended these sites for promptly cashing their cheques. All other sites who have provided contact details have had their cheques sent out. There was further expenditure of £100.62 for stationery and publicity for the Allotment Show. Total assets stand at £14,151.19.

6. President's Report: DR conveyed a report prepared by **SMcK**. Despite chasing up the relevant Council officials there has been no response regarding requested membership details or a date for the reconvening of the Strategy meetings. He noted with regret it is now unlikely that the Council will be able to mobilise interested parties around the proposed Lismore site in time for Climate Change Fund applications this year.

7. Maintenance Report: NMcC has submitted a report on tree work and repairs and maintenance. The tree work at Redhall has been completed, Saughton Mains is ongoing and Craigentenny, Ferry Road, Warriston and Inverleith are next in line. The repairs and maintenance report was discussed. It was noted that many items have no costings and there is no indication of what items will receive priority. It was noted that the Allotment Officer has agreed to attend October's meeting.

8. Show Report: JG said he has secured a representative from Scotland's Rural College to attend the Show to answer questions and provide information on plant disease. He suggested that novel solutions to allotment challenges, shown in photographs, would make for an interesting display. This will be highlighted in the Newsletter with a request for examples. **ACTION - EW**. Cllr. Lesley Macinnes has confirmed she will attend and present the prizes. **NMcC** is coordinating the return of cups and trophies. **AH** offered to assist with this. **ACTION - NMcC** and **AH**. **JG** said the publicity material is excellent and the priority now is to distribute it. **ACTION - JG**. It was **AGREED** to investigate preparing an A-board to draw crowds from Nicolson Street. An appeal will be issued to members of the Potato Club to display their Heritage Potatoes from the SASA trials. The next Show subcommittee meeting will be on 26th July.

9. Strategy Report: No progress to report. It was **AGREED** that **SMcK** write to the Council to request that the working group reconvenes soon. **ACTION - SMcK**.

10. Social and Educational: DR reported on the successful, enjoyable and informative trip to SASA. It was **AGREED** to investigate the logistics and potential interest in a trip to the Dundee Flower and Food Festival next year. **SMcK** has volunteered to look at this. **ACTION - SMcK**.

11. Trading Schemes: BB has the catalogue and will make his selections for the Seed Potato and Onion Set Trading Scheme soon. It was **AGREED** that order forms will be distributed in September. **ACTION - BB**. **JG** noted a further mixup by Kings Seeds. First, Gardener's Delight tomatoes turned out to be unidentified yellow plum tomatoes. Now, putative cucumbers have grown into gherkins. These shortcomings will be brought to Kings Seeds' attention.

12. Planning Report: AH said there were no applications affecting allotments.

13. Any Other Business: None.

14. Date of Next Meeting: 12th September.