



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Management Committee Meeting

7.15pm on 13th June 2017 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Committee: Stuart McKenzie - Inverleith (**SMcK**) (President) : Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**) (Secretary) : Dave Roberts - Craigtinny Telferton (**DR**) (Treasurer) : Alison Hewitt - Warriston (**AH**) : Alice Bain - Warriston (**AB**) : Peter Wright - Lady Road (**PW**) : John Gray - Warriston (**JGray**) : Neiria McClure - Claremont Park (**NMcC**) : John Grace - Midmar (**JGrace**) : Brian Bleakley - Midmar (**BB**) : Rosina Weightman - Saughton Mains (**RW**); Observers: Jake Booth - Carrick Knowe (**JB**) : David Morrice - Restalrig (**DM**) : Stuart Swarbrick - Ferry Road (**SS**) : Willie Aitken - Carrick Knowe (**WA**) : Alexis MacKay - Ferry Road (**AMcK**) : Carolynne Doig - Chesser Crescent (**CD**) : Jane Robinson - West Mains (**JR**) : Alan Wilson - Stenhouse (**AW**).

1. Apologies: Mary Simpson - Saughton Mains (**MS**) : Maureen Edwards - Lady Road (**ME**) : Paul Kerr - Redhall (**PK**) : Gilbert Clark - Midmar (**GC**) : Ursula Wright - Portobello East Junction (**UW**).

2. Actions and Approval of Minutes of 9th May: The Minutes were approved by **PW** and seconded by **JGray**. **SMcK** noted the addition of links to Saughton Mains, Warriston and West Mains newsletters on the website and said he would add that of Inverleith as well. **ACTION - SMcK**.

3. Site Reports: **JGray** told of a fallen tree at Warriston. **AB** said she met with the Allotment Officer, who responded quickly. The tree in question forms part of a glade of willows, many of which are now listing. It is thought the recent dry weather has affected the roots, making them less stable. The tree that came down fell onto the path. The Allotment Officer is now tasked with responding and making the area safe. **AB** said that the trees would be suitable for coppicing and this would produce usable material.

JGrace said the recent AGM at Midmar saw the committee reappointed. This year marks the site's centenary, which will be celebrated at the Open Day in August. He reported on the presence of potato cyst nematodes, or eelworms, which damage crops and are probably endemic across all city sites. There was a discussion on how to break the eelworm cycle and the topic will be raised at the forthcoming visit to SASA.

RW said a large tree at Saughton Mains has been cut down. It was an overhanging willow from outwith the site which had become dangerous. Trees along the

adjoining Water of Leith had also been cut back. She referred to the request to repair the entry gate which the Allotment Officer proposed to deal with by supplying a new gate. She said the site committee was determined that costs be kept down and had volunteered to paint the gate if the Allotment Officer supplied the paint. She also said there will be a meeting on Sunday to discuss the request by a plot holder to position a beehive on the otherwise unusable area where the pylon once stood. There has been an objection by a member whose husband is allergic to bee stings. There was a discussion on the matter which explored possible solutions and how best to handle the situation. **AW** said that hives have just been installed at Stenhouse. **AB** said that planning was in progress for hives at Warriston next year.

AMcK said the Ferry Road AGM recently took place and the community shed has been repainted. She said overhanging trees were a problem at the site and it is difficult to see how to resolve the problem as they are required by the crematorium to provide privacy for mourners.

DM said the Restalrig Trade Waste bin has been stolen, the latest in a string of such thefts. He was advised to contact the Allotment Officer for a replacement.

PW said that Lady Road was now strangely quiet, there being no arguments, shouting or swearing. But there was a small flood after heavy rain which covered the path for a while.

JR said the solar panel on top of the toilet block at West Mains had been stolen. Council employees had cut away shrubbery exposing the kit to passers by. The Allotment Officer has responded by making repairs to the perimeter fence. A seed swap event attracted 25 people and a great deal of cake was consumed.

DR reported that 50 had attended the Craigentiny Telferton barbeque. The site will have an Open Day on 6th August as part of the Scotland's Gardens scheme. There will be baked goods, a plant sale - and Mrs. Mash, the Storytelling Cook.

SMcK told of the Inverleith AGM which resulted in 2 extra committee members. The topic of rabbits was touched on. 12 were removed from the site after an operation on Sunday. Inverleith also celebrates its centenary this year which will be marked by an Open Day held in conjunction with the Inverleith Festival of Walking and Cycling. A booklet detailing the site's history is in preparation. A supplier of seaweed has agreed to allow members to pick up waste material left after processing which will be used for compost.

EW said the padlock at Cambridge Avenue has come apart. **PW** said this problem is common across all sites and is in part due to poor design caused by the soldering of the lock to the chain. This causes the mechanism to be pulled apart when the lock is dropped.

NMcC said the Claremont Park AGM resulted in an extra member being elected to the committee.

WA said that, after a 6 year wait, the problem tree at Carrick Knowe has been dealt with. There has been uncertainty over which day the Trade Waste bin should be put out for uplift but this has since been resolved. The Allotment Officer, who had been approached for assistance, was unable to help perhaps indicating a communication problem within the Council.

CD said that Chesser Crescent has never had a bin. Plotholders remove rubbish from the site themselves.

AW reported that the Stenhouse bin had not been stolen - just emptied. The Stenhouse AGM has elected a new committee and the 2 hives installed are currently settling in without incident, so far. Newly constructed sheds on the east extension have been painted. There was a problem with a key broken off in the padlock but this was quickly resolved by the Allotment Officer. A plot that consistently accumulates water is to be converted into a pond. Tempers have flared because some plotholders insist on driving their cars to their plots but the access road is too narrow to accommodate this resulting in blockages and bumps.

4. Secretary's Report: **EW** had circulated a written report including statistics on readers' interaction with the recent Newsletter for May. It was **AGREED** that there is no appetite for a social evening in July and so this will be a regular meeting at the Southside Community Centre. The SAGS Conference and AGM will be on 17th June. A Scottish Government funding package for new community growing initiatives has been announced which may be of relevance to those about to initiate the new allotment site at Lismore.

5. Treasurer's Report: **DR** had circulated a statement showing income of £3420 from the Council in respect of membership subscriptions and expenditure of £14.38 for the website. Total assets stand at £15,678.96. Cheques for site subscriptions and dividends from trading schemes were distributed to those in attendance. The remaining cheques will be posted out or distributed at next month's meeting. As the balance is now large it was **AGREED** a motion to the AGM be put to enable next year's site subscription to be increased. This will put more resources at the disposal of site committees.

AW queried the payment for Stenhouse. It was explained that, for administrative ease it has been agreed that the Council's subscription payment is based on last year's figures. Stenhouse has expanded in the last year and the figure will catch up with the reality next year. **SMcK** said he was still waiting for details of who has opted out of membership. These details will be required for next year's divvying up between the sites. He understood around 40 individuals had declined to pay their subscriptions.

6. President's Report: SMcK reported on his meeting with the Allotment Officer. It would appear that the tree work has commenced. It has been agreed that small branches will be chipped on site and larger branches will be chopped into logs for those with wood burners. There will be liaison with reps to ensure the correct trees are dealt with. The Allotment Officer is endeavouring to contact the Trade Waste contractor to find out collection days and re-establish a schedule. The Strategy meetings are in abeyance while the various parties negotiate to form an administration after the election. Claims that new ploholders are not inducted as agreed were disputed. The proposal to decommission the water pump at Bridgend was rejected. The need to restart discussions over the Repair and Maintenance list was emphasised, to which end it was suggested the Allotment Officer attend the July meeting. Finally, those who ran the Bridgend training courses will be contacted to see if more can be scheduled next year. However, it was questioned whether there is a sufficient appetite for this.

7. Maintenance Report: NMcC said there was no progress to report.

8. Show Report: JGrace said the website now shows the new show classes. Publicity material is now to hand and is being or is about to be distributed to all sites. This includes posters, handbills, pamphlets and entry forms. **SS** will distribute posters to city libraries. The bags of radish seeds for the children's section along with instructions are also available for distribution. **JGrace** has approached SRUC for representatives to be on hand to diagnose and give advice on plant problems. He proposed a visual display to illustrate novel initiatives on allotments, such as benches made out of recycled pallets. It was **AGREED** to await a political settlement in the Council before approaching an appropriate representative to attend and give prizes. There will be one more subcommittee meeting to be arranged for early July. **NMcC** will arrange for cupholders to return their trophies for July. **EW** will assist in this. **ACTION - SS, EW, NMcC and JGrace.**

9. Strategy Report: SMcK said there was no progress to report.

10. Social and Educational: SMcK confirmed the visit to SASA will take place on 30th June.

11. Trading Schemes: BB said there is nothing to report.

12. Planning Report: AH said there was nothing arising as of last week.

13. Any Other Business: None.

14. Date of Next Meeting: 11th July.