



THE FEDERATION OF  
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT  
ALLOTMENTS AND  
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

## ***FEDAGA Management Team Meeting 7.15pm on Tuesday 14 November 2017 at Southside Community Centre***

**Present:** Dave Roberts (**DR**) (Telferton Craigentenny) Treasurer, Acting Chair; Liz Grace (**LG**) (Midmar) Secretary; John Grace (**JG**) (Midmar); Paul Kerr (**PK**) (Redhall); Brian Bleakley (**BB**) (Midmar); Neiria MacClure (**NMcC**) (Claremont Park); Gilbert Clark (**GC**) (Midmar); Peter Wright (**PW**) (Lady Road); Maureen Edwards (**ME**) (Lady Road); Alice Bain (**AB**) Warriston ; Alison Hewitt (**AH**) (Warriston); David Morrice (**DM**) Restalrig; Ernie Watt (**EW**) (Cambridge Avenue); Stuart Swarbrick (**SS**) (Ferry Road - observer).

**1. Apologies:** Stuart McKenzie (**SMcK**) (Inverleith) President.

**2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The Minutes were proposed by **PW** and seconded by **DR**.

**3. President's Report:** **SMcK** had submitted a written report:

Thanks to everyone involved in what was a most positive AGM. We had lots of positive voices about what we should be doing next year. The Dundee trip looks possible with a good organiser involved.

Cllr. Macinnes has offered a meeting before the end of the year. We will work toward getting our membership list to enable more involvement. We want to agree a statement to go out with bills to encourage people to sign up for membership. **Action Point - SMcK.** The Scottish Government allotment consultation is quite straightforward. The deadline is close and members should be encouraged to participate.

There could be a problem with scheduling the Allotment Show date. **JG** is covering this.

**Action Point - JG.**

CEC are now consulting regarding the 2018 budget. There was no apparent mention of allotment fees in the Council summaries.

A request was made for Rockdust orders from allotment sites as the larger the total bulk order the cheaper the product becomes. At bulk orders of 6 pallets the price becomes even less. **Action Point - LG.**

Allotment sites are encouraged to buy their seeds from the Kings Seeds site. There is a 45% discount for ploholders and 10% of the cost goes back to the allotment site, a win, win situation. **Action point - EW.**

In relation to the allotment sites which are owed money but have no bank account an approach is to be made to the Council Allotment Officer to see if details of the site reps for these sites can be obtained. This will allow the matter to be progressed directly with the sites involved with a view to providing materials, possibly bulk bags of compost, in lieu of cash. **Action point - DR.**

**4. Secretary's Report:** **LG** said correspondence had been with individual members regarding routine matters. One enquiry of concern related to keeping pet dogs on site overnight. Such enquiries are forwarded to the Allotment Officer. **EW** noted a Greenspace survey demonstrating general levels of demand for access to growing space. 25% of those surveyed had grown their own produce. Of those who don't, 50% would like to. By age, the largest proportion is in the 16 to 24 year category. Also, the first Land Commission plan is investigating reducing planning constraints to allow use of vacant or derelict land for food growing.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** **DR** said the balance at 20 October stands at £13,232.89. Sites will receive £2 for every plot holder next year.

**DR** raised the possibility of speech to text software which would help some members who have hearing impairment. **DR** to speak to **SMcK** on available software apps which could assist with this matter. **Action Point** - **DR** and **SMcK**.

**6. Strategy Report:** The Allotment Strategy Steering Group meeting took place on 3 November and was attended by **DR**. Proposed new allotment sites at Letham Park, Braid Hills and Lismore Playing Fields were discussed. The waiting list was interrogated and it was found that there is not a great deal of demand in the area immediately surrounding the Lismore site. A wider sweep will be done to identify applicants. The main area of demand is in Leith. **EW** said there is former bowling green land on Leith Links that could be considered for allotment use.

**7. Allotment Officer Liaison Report:** **NMcC** said compost bays are to be built at Bridgend and Warriston, the toilet block roof at Bridgend is to be sprayed to prevent leaks, road repairs at Saughton Mains and Ferry Road have been completed and hedge work at Claremont Park, Ferry Road and Pilrig Park has been done. The annual consultation on future work will go out to site representatives in January. **Action Point** - **NMcC**.

**8. Planning Report:** **AH** said there is nothing to report.

**9. Trading Report:** **BB** will collate the orders and send the complete bulk order off by the end of the month. **Action Point** - **BB**.

**10. Allotment Show Report:** **JG** will start organising next year's allotment show in March.

**11. Site Reports:** **PK** said Redhall held their AGM on Sunday 12th November. **SS** said trees and hedges at Ferry Road have been cut back and a pothole in the road repaired.

**12. AOCB:** None.

**13. Date of Next Meeting:** 12 December. There is to be a social event at a nearby hostelry after the meeting.

**Action Points -**

**SMcK** to press again for access to membership details and make the case for a statement encouraging membership to go out with Council invoices.

**JG** to liaise with Methodist Church on date for Allotment Show.

**LG** to write to site representatives promoting the Rockdust offer.

**EW** to promote the Kings Seeds scheme in the Newsletter and issue a last minute reminder about the Government Consultation.

**DR** to request site contact details from the Allotment Officer so that sites with no representative can be contacted to progress payment in kind of moneys owed. Also, to investigate how to reimburse sites with no bank accounts.

**DR** and **SMcK** to pursue a technical solution to help members with hearing impairment participate in meetings.

**NMcC** to arrange consultation with sites on spending requests in January.

**BB** to collate potato and onion orders and send to Kings.