

FEDAGA Management Team Meeting
7.15pm on Tuesday 10th July 2018 at Southside Community Centre

Present : Stuart McKenzie (SMcK) (Inverleith) President ; Ernie Watt (EW) (Cambridge Ave); Dave Roberts (DR) (Craigentiny ;Telferton) (Treasurer); Elizabeth Grace (EG) (Secretary); John Grace (JG) (Allotment Show); Peter Wright (PW)(Lady Rd.); Maureen Edwards (ME)(Lady Rd.); Mary Simpson(MS)(Saughton Mains); Mary Ellen Lang (MEL) (Bridge End); Neiria MacClure (NMCC) (Claremont Park).

1. Apologies. Gilbert Clark (Midmar); Alice Bain (Warriston), Paul Kerr (Redhall).

2. Adoption of Minutes of the previous meeting. The contact person for ‘Zoo Poo’ was incorrect: Robert Hardew, the Head Gardener, is the contact person. With this correction, the Minutes were proposed and seconded (ME and EW) and adopted.

3. Matters arising. (i) The Treasurer noted that he has not yet received data from sites regarding the number of ploholders. The information is needed to check the Council’s figures on which the reimbursement payment is based. (ii) The Secretary reported that the process of collecting the trophies was still in progress.

4. Site Reports

Lady Road: the site was flooded in the storm of June 14th.

Saughton: (i) a ploholder has asked whether the site qualifies as a public place in the context of nudity. The Chair thought it did, and that nudity should therefore not be allowed. (ii) ‘Zoo Poo’ has been received and distributed – however, it should be stored for a year prior to use. (iii) A bee sting to the head and appearance of a wasps’ nest promoted discussion on whether wasps are beneficial – they prey on insect pests and should be regarded as the ‘gardeners’ friend’.

Cambridge Avenue: a new padlock on the main gate has been stolen.

Warriston: the large tree has not been removed

Stenhouse: (i) there are problems with rats and plots being poorly maintained. (ii) the gates are long-term problematic.

Bridgend: The spate of thefts has ceased.

Midmar: (i) Maintenance work completed includes replacement (but not complete repair) of lock on Gate 1 and (ii) removal of asbestos-containing shed had been completed. (iii) A helpful ploholder has repair the failing toilet, which is now open for use. (iv) planning for the Open Day has started.

Claremont: the Open Day is planned for 5th August and plot 7 has been designated as the community plot.

Inverleith: only a few rabbits remain following control measures.

5. President’s Report

(i) The President reported a successful SAGS meeting, the highlight being a talk on potato blight. (ii) The Strategy meeting between FEDAGA and the Council representatives is likely to be in September. (iii) Jenny Mollison of the Scotsman would welcome an article about the FEDAGA Show (Action JG). (iv) Amanda Cornish, consultant with the Scottish Community Alliance, had alerted the President to grants of up to £750 for communities (such as FEDAGA) to meet and discuss with other communities.

6. Secretary's Report

(i) an enquiry from St Mary's Care Home, seeking cultivators for the land around their premises and to care for chickens, has been referred to Edinburgh Garden Partners (ii) another contact from the care community, trying to establish a directory of volunteers, is under consideration (iii) Rosina Weightman and Isabel Fletcher have volunteered to represent FEDAGA at the Edible Edinburgh Partnership (iv) Allotment holders are invited to donate produce for the Marie Curie Hospice Fete on 28th July (venue is the Hospice) (v) someone is trying to donate unwanted hanging baskets, Currie/Balerno area (vi) contact with Ian Woolard re toilets: he suggests FEDAGA funds or Site funds might be used to help fund a replacement.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Report had been circulated by email. The Treasurer noted that: (i) Re-inbursement funds from the Council have now been received. (ii) The financial position is satisfactory (bank balance is £14,418) but it would be wise to defer any decision about making refunds to sites until the end of the year when most transactions will have been made. (iii) Only two places remain on the bus for the visit to the Dundee Show.

8. Show Convenor's Report

There are urgent tasks still remaining: (i) to prepare and print the publicity material, (ii) to collect the trophies, (iii) to invite the Presenter of Prizes. It was decided to invite both Councillor McInnes and Gilbert Clark to be co-Presenters. (iv) Good publicity material must be available soon for the site Champions. Action: JG. Another meeting of the organizing group will occur in August (provisional date : August 14th).

9. Response from FEDAGA concerning draft guidance for local authorities relating to Community Empowerment Act

Only a few people present had read the document. A brief discussion drew attention to the prolonged period before the Act will come into full force, and the extent of the duties that the Act places on the Council. The President advised that we should wait for SAGS advice before responding collectively or individually.

10. Date of Next Meeting: August 14th (for Show planning; to be confirmed following a doodle poll) next full committee at the Southside Community Centre to be September 18th (the 11th is not available due to another booking).