



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting, 7pm, 11th December 2018 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Stuart McKenzie (Inverleith) (President) (**SMcK**) : Liz Grace (Midmar) (Secretary) (**LG**) : Dave Roberts (Craigentenny Telferton) (Treasurer) (**DR**) : Alice Bain (Warriston) (**AB**) : Gilbert Clark (Midmar) (**GC**) : Maureen Edwards (Lady Road) (**ME**) : Ernie Watt (Cambridge Avenue) (**EW**); Observers: David Morrice (Restalrig) (**DM**) : Jane Robinson (West Mains) (**JR**).

1. Apologies: Yvonne Dawe (Saughton Mains) : John Grace (Midmar) (**JG**) : Alison Hewitt (Warriston) (**AH**) : Paul Kerr (Redhall) : Neiria MacClure (Claremont Park) (**NMcC**) : John Nisbet (Craigentenny Telferton) : Rosina Weightman (Saughton Mains) (**RW**) : Peter Wright (Lady Road).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the 13th November meeting were proposed by **DR** and seconded by **SMcK**.

3. Matters Arising: **SMcK** sent Potato Order forms out to all site reps to ensure complete coverage. He also informed Kings Seeds that feedback from members indicated people were not so keen on ordering 2.5kg bags as many are no longer growing so many potatoes. Many would prefer to purchase individual tubers or bags of a smaller quantity. Kings indicated they would see if this preference is common elsewhere before deciding to change their procedures.

SMcK also reported on the sale of Rock Dust, which is now complete. 3 pallets were purchased (147x20kg bags) but a delayed delivery caused inconvenience and there were practical problems unloading at Inverleith and Carrick Knowe. There was very little profit made due to the low price offered and he considered it not worth the time and trouble. He thanked those who helped with collecting and distributing the order.

LG said that **JG** is working on a proposal to the Allotment Officer to elicit help in providing horticultural training for ploholders. **ACTION - JG**.

4. Site Reports: **JR** said that West Mains had not participated in the Rock Dust order this year because of painful memories connected to a delivery in the past. However, she said 4 lorry-loads of Caledonian Horticulture compost in bulk bags were delivered to the site this year. The new committee is settling in but changing the bank account signatories with the Royal Bank of Scotland is proving to be a very frustrating procedure.

GC reported on the accidental strimming of beech saplings planted to screen Midmar allotments from nearby residents. **LG** spoke of a broken noticeboard at Midmar which has become a hazard due to snapped hinges. Another board cannot be viewed through condensation created by a leak. General discussion indicated that many boards were reaching the end of their lives. As the Allotment Officer has said he is not willing to pay for replacements, the possibility of FEDAGA or Site Associations paying for these was explored. **ME** urged the committee to consider spending money on noticeboards to help the cash-strapped Council. She said damaged noticeboards create a poor impression. It was suggested that it may be best to look at refurbishment options first.

ME reported of a delivery from Garden Solutions of mushroom compost to Lady Road.

AB said a huge number of trees on the south side of the Warriston site will need to be removed as they are shading many plots, particularly those in the valley area to the south of the footpath. They are primarily ash and sycamore seedlings that have been allowed to grow and some are now entangling the boundary fence. She appreciated that a lot of tree work was done on this site this year, but this area is in need of urgent attention as the problem is only going to get worse. It was **AGREED** to refer this to **NMcC** for inclusion in the Maintenance Report and urge ploholders to take proactive action by cutting down or uprooting such saplings where possible when they appear on their plots via a piece in the Newsletter. **ACTION - NMcC and EW.**

DM said there has been a high turnover of ploholders at Restalrig recently. It was noted that, contrary to our agreement with the Allotment Officer, the arrival of these new ploholders is not being shared with the site rep. This will be taken up with the Allotment Officer at an appropriate time. **ACTION - SMcK. DM** has not yet been able to speak to anyone on the adjoining and unrepresented Prospect Bank site regarding the proposal to combine the sites as regards FEDAGA representation. **ACTION - DM.**

SMcK reported that his old site, Balgreen, long decommissioned and used for storage for tramway materials has been discussed at the Murrayfield Community Council with a view to looking into reopening it as allotments. The current plan is to build housing on it but this may be unsuitable as it is sandwiched between a busy railway line embankment and a primary school playground. Worryingly, a visit to the old site showed it could be easily entered and that vandalism had taken place resulting in chemicals being spilled onto the ground. Enquiries met with assurances that it is safe but it doesn't look like the site is being properly protected.

5. President's Report: SMcK has submitted a draft letter to be used by the Council to interrogate the wishes of those on the allotment waiting list. Unofficial feedback so far is positive. It was **AGREED** to write to seek confirmation the letter will be used and for the Council to make preparations to use it to improve their knowledge of allotment applicants' wishes. **ACTION - DR.**

SMcK will attend a SAGS meeting tomorrow night which is hoped will clarify certain operational matters.

6. Secretary's Report: **LG** received correspondence from **RW** indicating that one of the children who won a prize at the Allotment Show was delighted to receive her trophy.

7. Treasurer's Report: **DR** reported that there were no recent transactions. After discussion it was unanimously **AGREED** that the annual site rebate of £1 be increased this year to £2 per plot holder. This follows last year's initiative but does not constitute a precedent for future years. Before the payment is made details of how many paid-up members on each site will be obtained, as agreed, from the Allotment Officer. This will ensure that the payment to site associations properly reflects the correct number of paid subscriptions. **ACTION - DR.**

8. Other Reports:

Maintenance: It was **AGREED** that a request for items to be put forward for the Repair and Maintenance Schedule be sent out to site reps. **ACTION - LG.**

Planning: **AB** said that **AH** reports there are no planning applications currently impacting allotments.

Trading: A report from the Trading Secretary indicated that 18 sites had participated in the Potato and Onion scheme and the order has been sent to Kings Seeds. He anticipates the delivery will take place in the third week of February.

Allotment Show: No report.

Newsletter: **EW** said he will aim to put an issue out in early January. There will be pieces about the state of noticeboards and the Balgreen site. As usual, he appealed to members for interesting and informative articles for inclusion. **ACTION - EW.**

9. Date of Next Meeting; 12th February 2019.