



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Minutes of FEDAGA Management Committee Meeting 7pm Tuesday 11 May 2021 - Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Present

Stuart McKenzie (SMcK)(Inverleith)(President); Dave Roberts (DR) (Telferton; Craigentenny)(Treasurer); Liz Grace (EG) (Midmar)(Secretary); John Grace (JG)(Midmar)(Allotment Show); Ernie Watt(EW)(Cambridge Ave)(Newsletter); Alison Hewitt (AH) (Warriston)(Planning&Trading); Paul Kerr (PK)(Redhall) (Minutes); Jan Bradbury(JB)(Saughton Mains); John Nesbit (JN)(Telferton/Craigentenny); Alice Bain(AB)(Warriston); Stuart Swarbrick (SS) (Ferry Road); Peter Wright (PW)(Lady Road); Neiria MacClure (NMCC) (Claremont Park); Pamela McKay (PMcK)(Lethem Park)

1. Apologies

Heather MacPherson; Tana Homes; Kathleen White; Lorna Henderson; Alan Gordon.

2. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the last Management Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12 April were proposed by PW and seconded by AH.

3. Matters/Actions Arising

DR – has requested information from Ian Woolard on the total number of allotment plots broken down into individual sites to allow the appropriate refunds to be processed for each site.

SMcK enquired whether we knew how many allotment tenants had chosen not to join us.

SMcK had had a response from Alex Laidler in CEC Planning Service regarding planning developments near allotment sites. Alex pointed out it was possible for an individual to register an interest in any site. AH – registered for the Planning portal to find out how we could register for notifications but there were some problems logging in. SMcK suggested that site reps may have to register in relation to their own sites.

Action - AH will investigate and report back.

SMcK - suggestions for a Gilbert Clark memorial - this will be considered in AOCB

4. Site Reports

Carrick Knowe

Ian Woolard has sent an email to all ploholders re the dumping rubbish against the fence between plots 5 and 12, and it's fine for now.

Ferry Road (SS)

Not a great deal been happening that I've heard about for the site report - no news, is good news.- We hired a van and cleared more rubbish to the tip. Inverleith gave us some old wheelbarrows to the scrap yard, which helped boost the money we got back and gave us enough to cover the hire of the van. We had a bit of extra mileage this time to collect a pile of pallets that had been put aside for us by a neighbour at his work.

We've signed up for "It's your neighbourhood" through Keep Scotland Beautiful. The goal/plan/forlorn hope is to contribute to keeping our wee section of Ferry Road looking a bit better. Planning to build some planters, pick up the litter nearby the gate, etc.

We've got a site Instagram account now - <https://www.instagram.com/ferryrdallotments/> Personally I'm finding it a quick way to document what we're up to, show what we're doing as it's all done from a phone, and the goal is to keep it brief. It was originally suggested by Roger, one of our ploholders, as social media is a good way to demonstrate/document the work for applying for grants/funding, etc, and to demonstrate how the funds have been used.

There is a procedure note for hiring the green shredder/chipper which can be requested.

Midmar (JG)

Committee: We held a COVID-compliant meeting at the Communal Plot on 24th April. We had a good discussion about improvements to the composting loo, including redecoration and installation of a new urinal. Minutes of the meeting are in the cabin. We finally decided not to hold an AGM, in view of COVID restrictions and the general nervousness about meetings whilst Scotland still has cases.

Intrusion: Our Secretary apprehended youths in the communal hut. He sent them packing and the Council Officer was informed. Ian Woolard responded magnificently and has now re-inforced the fencing in the SE corner of the site where we believe the intruders made entry (certainly, it's where they exited - we have a photo to prove it).

Seed and Seedling Swap (8-23rd May): Once more, we have organised this event, but this time over two weeks. There are notices at the gates. Just bring your seeds and plants to the cabin (see below) and see what's there to exchange.

Wildlife: Patches of the invasive plant *Allium paradoxum* (the few-flowered garlic or few-flowered leek) have appeared on our site. It's an Asian species, which seems to have entered the UK via Edinburgh, and is now widespread. Being quite pretty, some people encourage it. It's best to eat it by making pesto! It spreads by little bulbs that form where the flowers are born. Do not confuse it with our native wild garlic, *Allium ursinum*.

Saughton Mains(JB)

The composting toilets at Saughton Mains are working fine. There are two -one for females and one for males.

Lady Road (PW)

There has been a recent influx of new ploholders. They have been busy clearing rubbish from the old vacant plots. Ian Woolard has organised waste removal. They now have more than a skips worth of refuse to remove. PW enquired how other sites deal with communal paths where there are problems with drop

offs at specific plots. JB suggested that this be taken up with the plotheolders concerned. PW had spoken to individual plotheolders regarding this but had received abuse.

SMcK suggested that sites where the communal paths were bad, should write to Ian Woolard.

Northfield (HMacP)

Developments - we are supposed to be getting water at some time between May 17 and the 22nd - all being well. Exciting!

Our communal area is up and running with our amazing table and umbrella. We have planted a wild flower area around it.

5. President's Report (SMcK)

Membership Lists - A new membership list will be received from the Allotment Service now that the subscriptions have been paid by members. This will be used as the basis for the ongoing newsletter circulation.

I attended the last Edible Edinburgh virtual meeting with Margaret Williamson. The meeting focussed on using food and green waste effectively. Sites would obviously benefit from being able to chip waste tree cuttings rather than burn them. However, supplying all sites with such a machine along with PPE and training would be impossible. I have asked the Forestry Department, who have this equipment, whether a regular (monthly) tour of allotment sites with their kit could help stop bonfires.

Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership are understood to be keen on setting up allotments. They seem to not know of the allotment strategy. I will attend their next meeting and introduce FEDAGA and the strategy.

I attended Andrew Reid's funeral. Andrew was our Treasurer for many years. A eulogy was read at the funeral which we agreed to add onto the website. The full eulogy will be published to members in the next newsletter.

6. Secretary's report (EG)

Correspondence:

There were two enquiries regarding about how to find an allotment plot to rent. One was from a woman who had problems composing her emails in English as it was not her first language. This initiated a discussion about how we could help new arrivals into the allotmenting community. Both enquiries were forwarded to Ian Woolard.

Another enquiry was regarding a dispute between plot holders- this was referred to Stuart McKenzie.

Alison Hewitt, our Trading Officer, has amended the list of potato varieties which could be offered by FEDAGA later this year. This is to be publicised by site reps to FEDAGA members and the explanatory notes should be read regarding the selection of varieties. AH can be contacted using the Trading address. See Appendix 1

7. Treasurer's Report (DR)

The funds sit at £13,706.07. Ian Woolard has given me the total funds to be returned this year which is £3327.50.

There is a total of 1331 paid up members. Awaiting further data from Ian. The committee were

asked to approve the redistribution of funds; it was agreed to reimburse the amount of £2 per member back to CEC allotment sites and £1 for affiliated sites. It is hoped that the fees plus potato & onion, Kings seeds can all be paid out before the financial year end July in one payment. This will rely on Ian Woolard and Kings seeds providing the data Dave urged that the small grants scheme be spend if possible before the end of the financial year.

PW complimented DR on doing a grand job as Treasurer.

Small Grants scheme- two payments have been made regarding Victoria Park and Northfield Allotments.

PMcK – still awaiting pallets for their project.

JB – enquired about the continuation of the Small Grants Scheme. DR – will think about re-starting this from the start of the new Financial Year in August.

8. Maintenance (NMCC)

The Communal shed at Claremont Park was due to be re-felted last week but it is still to be done.

IW to be contacted regarding this.

9. Planning (AH)

Alan Gordon has alerted us that there is a pre-planning consultation for St Crispin's school which is right next to West Mains allotment site. Cala homes are proposing 49 new homes, some of which will be flats. He is concerned about a water spring next to the proposed building site. This causes a high water table and some allotments to become unworkable at times. This may compromise construction and cause water to back up on the allotments unless adequately dealt with. Alan is also concerned about parking for plot holders as there is no onsite parking at West Mains.

The formal application will be made late May, early June. And the proposals can be viewed at <https://cala-stcrispins.co.uk/> .

10. Show Convenor's Report - Annual Show (JG)

There will be no physical show this year. There is however the possibility of an outdoor social event as restrictions ease.

11. Trading (AH)

Thanks to Brian Bleakley for all his work with the trading orders over the past years.

We are hoping to use Clydeside Trading Society, Lanark for potatoes. The bags will be smaller at 2kg rather than 2.5 kg. In the event of a crop failure suitable substitutions will be provided. Fewer varieties will be offered; the list has been published in the recent newsletter.

Onions and shallots supplied as previously. I am trying to source banana shallot sets but these are hard to find.

We will hopefully be adding Garlic in the autumn, possibly from Kings. There are three types, softneck, hardneck and elephant. Leeks to continue and will hopefully be delivered first week in June.

An order form will be issued earlier, possibly by late July, early August. Late orders will not be possible. Payment will be made via bank transfer to FEDAGA where possible. There will be a dedicated FEDAGA email for ordering use. The shop at Inverleith will have a very limited supply of potatoes, onions and shallots for new ploholders who were unable to access the autumn order. Distribution will likely be as this year with timed slots to collect site items.

12. AOCB

A suitable memorial to Gilbert Clark was discussed. It was generally felt we had enough trophies and that Gilbert wasn't a fan of competitiveness anyway.

PW suggested that the small grants scheme could be renamed the Gilbert Clark Foundation (or similar) as a lasting memorial by improving sites. This was unanimously agreed.

SS suggested using a plaque or stencil on equipment/tools or other hardware bought through the scheme would be a fitting memorial to Gilbert.

13.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8 June 2021 at 7pm using internet conferencing.

Please note-

All further meetings in person are cancelled until further notice due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Please also note the SSCC is closed. Future meetings will be held by internet conferencing using Zoom.