



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Minutes of FEDAGA Management Committee Meeting 7pm Tuesday 12th April 2022 - Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Present

Stuart McKenzie (SMcK)(Inverleith)(President); Dave Roberts (DR) (Telferton/Craigentiny)(Treasurer); Liz Grace (EG) (Midmar)(Secretary); John Grace (JG)(Midmar)(Allotment Show); Alison Hewitt (AH) (Warriston)(Trading & Planning); Paul Kerr (PK)(Redhall) (Minutes); Ernie Watt (EW)(Cambridge Ave) (Newsletter); Nils Tomes(NT)(West Mains); Jan Bradbury (JB)(Saughton Mains); Alex Taylor(AT)(Portobello East Jn.); Pamela McKay (PM)(Lethem Park)

1. Apologies

Neiria MacClure (Claremont), Stuart Swarbrick (Ferry Road), Chris McKinnell (Lady Road), Karen Henry (Hutchison), Heather MacPherson (Northfield), Lorna Henderson (Carrick Knowe), Alison Leslie (Lady Road), Alice Bain (AB)(Warriston), Margaret Williamson(MW) (Stenhouse)

2. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Adoption of Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 8 February - Proposed by Dave Roberts
Seconded by Stuart McKenzie

3. Matters/Actions Arising

IW has not yet provided a monthly update on new ploholders.

Previous Action Point - IW Agreed to provide monthly updates to EG/SMcK and will also send the new ploholders list from October (approximately 40 new ploholders).

SMcK requested a breakdown of who had paid the annual FEDAGA membership fee.

We need to encourage sites not to waste water due to the cost. Another strategy meeting is necessary.

4. Site Reports

West Mains (NT/AG)

This is the first season that we have bee hives at West Mains. The aim is to improve the pollination of our allotment crops and support biodiversity. Ploholders can sign up to observe the hives and find out more about looking after the bees.

Warriston (AH)

A couple of weeks ago around nine plots on Warriston's south path (accessible to the public), were broken into. Very little was taken (knives and hammers) and no damage done other than grinding through all the gate/shed padlocks. Two days later, after padlocks had been replaced, the same happened again! Again, no plot damage and only small items taken. The police and council have

been informed.

Ferry Road (SS)

We have received the Solar lighting kit and the Hot bin composter from the FEDAGA Gilbert Clark Foundation Fund. They just need stencilled and installed, hopefully to be done second week of the Easter holidays.

We're working on a new set of compost heaps, again a work in progress.

Ferry Road Site AGM set for Saturday 30th May.

Midmar (JG)

Nothing to report except for complaints about irregular pickup of the skip.

Redhall (PK)

Redhall had a new Eliet shredder delivered on Monday 11 April. This will hopefully help to reduce the need for burning off woody waste materials on site and contribute to site composting.

A training day is to be held in the next few weeks. Site Public Liability Insurance has been purchased through the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) which offers discounted Insurance for sites (through Sports Insure) affiliated to RHS.

5. President's Report (SMcK)

FEDAGA has now resigned from Scottish Allotments (SAGS) along with Glasgow Allotment Forum (GAF) which represents allotment sites in Glasgow. Scottish Allotments have changed their criteria for Membership away from allotment site umbrella groups such as GAF and FEDAGA to site associations and individual plot holders. It therefore seems we jumped before we were pushed.

We continue to believe that waiting lists and communicating to those on the lists should be a National priority. Representatives from FEDAGA had met recently with GAF to discuss the next steps. We are going to try and arrange a meeting with the Scottish Government and its Ministers to discuss with them directly.

6. Secretary's report (EG)

Correspondence

An appeal from a beekeeper in Fife who has been forced to give up due to ill health and is putting her equipment up for sale. JB forwarded her email onto the Edinburgh & Midlothian Beekeeping Association (EMBA). NT – some beehives have been established at West Mains. It is a certified beekeeper who maintains these.

A few general enquiries about how to get an allotment- I referred them to the guidance on Edinburgh City Council's website.

7. Treasurer's Report (DR)

The current Financial Statement by Dave Roberts had been circulated. Current Bank Balance at 12th April 2022 is £13,695.36.

Funds relating to Sites without Bank Accounts e.g. Scotland St. Lane stands at £88.22.

8. Maintenance (NMCC)

Neiria had been in contact with Ian Woolard to discuss maintenance works on sites. See **Appendix 1** for details of works needing attention. A new composting toilet has also been requested by Leith Links.

9. Planning (AH)

No new applications found which affect allotment sites.

10. Trading (AH)

An appeal for suitable premises to sort, store and distribute the potato and onion order has been successful. Thanks very much to Pamela McKay at Lethem Park for allowing us the use of a building there. Warriston ploholders are keen to see a reduction in the size of onions bags and an option of 1kg seed potatoes.

11. Annual Allotment Show (JG)

I intend to pursue the idea of an enlarged show combining with other food-producing community organisations and with the full support of the Council. However, Cllr. George Gordon whose remit is 'Edible Edinburgh' and who was supportive of this idea when I spoke to him in early 2020 has recently been deselected by his local SNP Branch. I intend to deal directly with the Lord Provost, Cllr Frank Ross, who has shown strong interest in allotments. As for venue: we were impressed by the facilities at Edinburgh College Granton but it is far away for most people. Saughton Park is another potential venue (also the focus of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society – 'the Caley'). Saughton Park doesn't have a room big enough for the show and a Marquee would be needed over the courtyard area.

12. AOCB.

SMcK – Edible Edinburgh – Councillor Gordon has been deselected by the SNP. MW to report back on Edible Edinburgh at next meeting. Inverleith have decided to hire a skip and have a 'Street Party' – best dates are 4-6 June. There is a Lord Provost Jubilee Fund where you can potentially get up to £500 towards the cost of such an event. You must fill in an application form. There followed a discussion about the Roving Ferry Road chipper and the costs associated with transporting the shredder to other sites - van hire and petrol. DR requested permission to give a FEDAGA donation to the Ukraine Appeal and an appropriate amount. It was agreed that £250 would be donated to the Ukraine Disaster Fund. DR further proposed that every year FEDAGA could donate money to a worthy charity to be decided upon.

£1000 has been spent on items relating to the Gilbert Clark Foundation. Any site which has

been granted money from the Foundation must spend it.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th May 2022 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 via Zoom (as we now have a paid account, the meeting will not be time limited but please keep your contributions brief and pertinent).

Appendix 1

Maintenance Wish List 2022

Leith Links

A new composting toilet has also been requested by Leith Links.

Warriston

Metal drain across west/east path to channel drainage into woodland area.

Drainage channel on south side path to divert water from running down from football car park.

Repair wooden fence at plot 107.

Remove overhanging branches on south side (plots 82-86) and ash trees beside plot 1 and road.

Replacement barbed wire for gaps in external security fence.

Re-roof cottage in corrugated iron or similar.

Northfield

Paths

Ferry Road

Removal of the Sun Mar Composting Toilet unit. (Could it be recycled to another site?)

Going to have a DIY toilet **Ian says take to dump**

The outside wall at the gate on Ferry Road needs checked. There are holes and gaps appearing between the stones

There are a couple of saplings growing between the fence and the gate wall on the right hand side as you face out - the fence needs to be removed so they can be cut down and dug out properly

Restalrig

Desperate for windust for paths which are treacherous in the rain!

Cambridge Avenue

Tree work Plot 11 decisions need to be taken

Plot 10 B(Rachel) Lime tree

Plot8A (Helen) Holly tree

Claremont

Ashley's tree

Stenhouse

Felt missing from the communal shed roof (left hand side)

Wire netting is loose at the bottom of the entrance gate

Water gathering is caused by a dip in the path near the turning circle and in low lying area near communal sheds. Grit needed to fill hole

West Mains'

Repointing the external walls of the small toilet block. Mortar is badly eroded

The brick boundary walls at the North and South need repointing. It is likely that these walls are shared responsibility with neighbouring houses. The South wall is a retaining wall holding back a garden so needs to hold considerable weight.

Trim back overgrown shrubs along sloping boundaries

Topping required for the access track in front of the pond which gets very wet and muddy from surface flooding

Replacing the padlocks on front and back gates both ageing and unreliable.

We have had a spate of thefts in recent months. Boundary fences are in good condition but it is too easy for people to vault the Blackford Road gate, or access the site along the adjacent roofs on Watertoun Road

Saughton

Verandah of chalet needing work.

Inverleith

Need to connect up two DIY tap extensions that have been half installed by ploholders themselves.