

FEDAGA Management Team Meeting 7.15pm on Tuesday 12 December 2017 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Stuart McKenzie (**SMcK**)(Inverleith) President ; Dave Roberts (**DR**) (Telferton ; Craigentenny) Treasurer ; Ernie Watt (**EW**) (Cambridge Avenue) ; Liz Grace (**LG**) (Midmar) Secretary; John Grace (**JG**) (Midmar); Paul Kerr (**PK**) (Redhall) Minutes Secretary ; Brian Bleakley (**BB**) Potato Order ; (Midmar); Peter Wright (**PW**) (Lady Road); Maureen Edwards (**ME**) (Lady Road); Ernie Watt (**EW**) (Cambridge Avenue);
Guests- Frank Lynch (Prestonfield) ; Dennis Steven (Prestonfield)

- 1. Apologies:** Neiria MacClure (**NMcC**) (Claremont Park) ; Alice Bain (**AB**) Warriston ; Stuart Swarbrick (**SS**) (Ferry Road - observer); ; Alison Hewitt (**AH**) (Warriston) ; **Mary Simpson**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The Minutes were proposed by **PW** and seconded by **EW** after an amendment .In the previous Minutes Letham Park was missed out as being a potential allotment site. The site is owned by the Boys Brigade and was offered to the Council for use as an allotment site. It would be particularly convenient for people on the waiting lists in the Leith area and is a secure site. However, the rental cost could be too high and the matter may not progress due to the cost involved.
- 3. President's Report: SMcK-** welcomed two guests, Frank Lynch and Dennis Steven from Prestonfield which is a privately managed site with 13 small plots/raised beds and has existed for the last two years.It was created from old areas of overgrown and unused drying green space. The site intends to affiliate to FEDAGA in the near future. **JG – clarification is still being sought on the availability of the Methodists hall for next years Allotment Show.** **DR** has requested contact names from Ian Woolard in respect of allotment sites where there is no management committee in order that appropriate refunds can be made.
SMcK – attended a centenary event regarding allotment sites. SAGS have received a £20,000 grant for sites in deprived areas. They are putting together £500 packages of tools for sites in these areas. There is also talk of a movie on the SAGS scheme.
SMcK – there was a meeting on Monday with Councillor Lesley McInnes. And a proposed agenda tabled by FEDAGA. SMcK , EW, LG and DR were all present. The provision of membership data was discussed and the Council may be amenable to providing the plot numbers of allotmenters who have chosen not to pay their subscription fees to FEDAGA. Other items on the agenda which were discussed included – annual rent increases – what is the agreed policy? Site maintenance – how can FEDAGA help to get best value;

Community Empowerment Act -next steps? **IW** was asked about ploholders introductions by Site Reps ; Tree felling schedule for 2018;
The Council were asked to resurrect the Allotment Forum – potentially a meeting in March 2018.

Annual rents will increase at the Cost of Living index in line with other Council Services from £104 to £108 pa. A 4% increase.

A Strategy Meeting will be held on February 23rd.

JG – FEDAGA should look again at the Community Empowerment Act and establish where we think the Council are deficient in what they are proposing. This could be an article in the next Newsletter.

4. **Site Reports – JG** – there is a problem with potato cyst nematode at Midmar. He had looked into the cost of soil investigation tests for the nematode by Scotland's Rural College however the test is very expensive;
AB – a broken drain at Warriston has been reported to the Council Allotment Officer and is to be repaired.
5. **Secretary's Report: LG** – An enquiry was received from an organisation which is interested in using allotment sites as potential venues for a Supper Club. They wanted to have details of the facilities on sites including kitchen and toilet facilities.

An enquiry was already received regarding a photoshoot for Two Men and a Shed

6. **Treasurer's Report: DR** made a report. The current balance is a healthy £13,163.49.
7. **Strategy Report:** No report
8. **Allotment Officer Liaison Report:** No report
9. **Planning Report: AH** reported by email that no developments had been found .
10. **Trading Report:** The Potato, onion and shallot order has been submitted to Kings (**BB**)

SMcK enquired if any sites wished to make Rockdust orders. The cost per bag reduces if we order six or more pallets. There are 49 bags on each pallet. It was agreed that an extra pallet would be ordered on top of the orders already received to date .This amounts to five pallets. The extra bags will be sold at the Inverleith shop at the discounted price.
11. **Allotment Show Report:** No report
12. **AOCB: None**

13. Date of Next Meeting: February 13th 2018