



Minutes of FEDAGA Management Committee Meeting 7pm Tuesday 12th February 2019 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Stuart McKenzie (Inverleith) (President) (SMcK); Ernie Watt (Cambridge Ave) (Newsletter) (EW); Liz Grace (Midmar) (Secretary) (EG); John Grace (Midmar) (Show Secretary) (JG); Maureen Edwards (Lady Road) (ME); Paul Kerr (Redhall) (Minutes) (PK); Heather McPherson (Northfield Drive); Margaret McLennan (Bridgend); John Nesbitt (Telferton/Craigentiny); Rosina Weightman (Saughton Mains) (RW); Alison Hewitt (Warriston) (AH); Neiria McClure (Claremont Park) (NMcC); Alice Bain (Warriston) (AB); Yvonne Dawe (Saughton Mains); Jane Robinson (West Mains)

1. **Apologies:** Peter Wright (Lady Road) (PW); David Roberts (Telferton/Craigentiny) Treasurer (DR); Gilbert Clark (Midmar) (GC); David Morrice (Restalrig) (DM); Stuart Swarbrick (SS)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 December had been circulated and were proposed by LG and seconded by NMcC

3. Matters Arising

- JG made a suggestion for assisting new ploholders with getting to grips with their plot in the form of on-line tutorials and video podcasts. The podcasts could be made by volunteers from FEDAGA who were willing to speak on a range of subjects including organic - green approach; no dig policy; weed management; avoiding pests; pruning fruit trees; composting; growing sweet peas etc. **Action JG**
- There was also a suggestion that the Pilton Community Film Project which is a charity, could be contacted to see if they would have an interest in participating in this project.

4. Site Reports

JN - Craigentiny has received a community Grant which will be put towards the cost of a community hut ,tools etc.

MMcL - a ploholders hut was recently burned to the ground at Bridgend. The Bridgend AGM is to be held on Sunday.

NMacC - Claremont Park have had hedges cut back from 15 feet and waste removed which was all kindly organised byIW.

RW - Saughton Mains has some new ploholders on the site

JG - Midmar are considering what to do with the community area previously used for Bonfires. They are going to organise for a skip in March to dispose of any unwanted rubbish on the site.

SS - Ferry Road - we need some more tree work as there are several overhanging branches on the far side of the site that need trimmed back. Some of them are quite high and heavy which makes it a bigger job. IW has been informed and is to take a look. We are trying to work out a better way to get compost delivered to the site, especially for our ploholders without cars. The gate at Ferry Road is too narrow for the compost delivery lorry to get in and drop the builders bags of compost off, so they have to drop them at the gate and then we have to wheelbarrow it down the length of the site to our plots.

The plan is to put in a bulk order for the individual sacks of compost, then collect them with a hire van which fits through the gate and drop them off on the plots. Details will be going up on the site noticeboard in the next few days.

HMCP - Northfield Drive now has an agreement with CEC to provide 1 piped water supply on site for the first time. In addition £1600 worth of fencing repairs have been done. However in some areas children can climb under the fence due to the gap. SMcK suggested dropping the fencing panels in this area down a notch and then re- fixing them to remove the gap. All the plots except two have now been taken.

5. Presidents Report

SMcK contacted Ian Woolard, the Council Allotments Officer on a number of points raised at the Management Team Meeting and his replies are detailed below in red font:-

- **Bridgend and access to sites by Fire Brigade** - Bridgend reported the burnt sheds which is awful. This raised a bit of a conversation about to whom the shed belongs. I recall it was supplied as part of the new site, does this mean the sheds were owned by the Council? Therefore, who should replace them? Further to this, what does happen when such an incident occurs? Can the fire brigade get into sites? Or do they just cut the gate locks?

IW - is a bit of a grey area as the sheds are now 13 years old, I will let my line managers decide if they should be replaced. The fire brigade will just cut the locks

- **Turnover of plots** - The turnover of new tenants seems high. Sites were asking for numbers so they can provide welcome packs etc. Can you send on information that I can circulate please?

IW - there has be a very good number of new tenants recently, this was a result of my autumn purge followed by a dry winter where I haven't stopped allocating new plots, I have been pretty good at keeping most site reps informed, before the spring starts I can do a quick recount and let the site reps know again

- **Northfield** - Northfield reported some fence fixing that had been done. From photos the work looks quite shoddy. Example - electricians ties holding a new panel in. Is it worth checking to make sure we got good value?

IW - The extra security measure I put in place have been affective and no vandalism has occurred since, these fence panels alone are around £160 If I wasn't happy with the works, I would have the guys back.

Presidents Report -other matters

FEDAGA composed the letter for the Council to use in the analysis of the waiting list. It was assumed it had gone out but no information yet received about the analysis of the questionnaire.

The subject of plot succession was raised as well as the problem of unofficial subletting of plots. The extract from the Allotment rules regarding succession can be found as an appendix to these minutes.

There is an article in the current newsletter about repairs to allotment site Notice Boards. If any sites have old Notice boards which are in need of repairs please let FEDAGA know and repairs can be arranged if practicable.

Muriel Horsburgh has kindly volunteered to organise another trip to the Dundee Flower Show; the ticket price for the coach fare to Dundee Flower Show was to be kept at £6 (Cost of the Entrance tickets to the show NOT in this price; advance purchase from the show website)

The potato, onion, shallot order will arrive on 20th February at Inverleith Allotments at 10.30am. SMcK to contact BB regarding the final arrangements.

The allotment shop at Inverleith will be open on Sunday 24 February and 3 March to sell any remaining potatoes, onions and shallots on a first come, first served basis. Opening hours 2pm-3.30pm.

6. Secretary's Report - LG has received some interesting communications. One plot holder at Warriston has been collecting data on the weight of produce grown on her plot and has information up to October 2018. Although she has stopped weighing produce she has still been harvesting Cavello nero and leeks.

Another enquiry was in relation to the Kings seed scheme. The enquirer who is assisting another plot holder at Midmar wanted to know if he was eligible to partake in the seeds scheme. He is to be advised by LG.

Action LG

Midmar committee have written in to thank DR for repairing one of the notice boards at Midmar allotments.

7. Treasurers Report (DR)

Current Balance is £9,981.95

8. Maintenance

NMcC has had an update from IW - six sites are in line for tree cutting work including West mains, Northfield and Warriston.

9. **Planning** (AH) - No applications of interest at this time.

10. Trading -

Potatoes being delivered to Inverleith Allotments on Wednesday 20 February 10-11am

11. **Allotment Show** -JG said that the show will be on 14 September 2019 - the week after the Dundee Flower Show.

12. **AOCB**: Concessions for allotment ploholders are under review by City of Edinburgh Council. The concession for those who are of retirement age will start when they have reached that age and not at 60yrs as it was previously. It will now be age 66 before a concession is given.

13. **Date of Next Meeting**: Tuesday 12 March 2019. 7pm, South Side Community Centre

2. ALLOCATION OF PLOTS

2.1 Unless the Council decides otherwise, plots will only be provided to a person who is resident within the Council area BOTH at the date of their application for a plot AND at the date of allocation.

2.2 The Council will allocate vacant plots in accordance with the allotment waiting list held by the Council, except where the vacant plot may be taken over by:

2.2.1 a family member of the current plot holder, (see Regulation 2.3 or Regulation 2.4, as appropriate), or

2.2.2 by a shared plot member (see Regulation 2.5).

2.3 The Council may allocate a vacant plot to a family member of the current plot holder, if:

2.3.1 the names of the current plot holder and person who will take over the plot have been registered with the Council EITHER since the current plot holder originally took the plot, OR for a minimum of 5 years, if not since originally registered; or

2.3.2 the family member is on the waiting list and declines a plot offered by the Council and instead registers a preference to take over the family plot as and when it becomes available.

2.4 In the event of death of a plot holder, the spouse or partner of that plot holder may apply to take over the plot with immediate effect without their name having been registered with the Council for 5 years or having their name on the waiting list for a plot.

2.5 Where a plot holder wishes to share a plot by dividing it into 2 half plots, the Council may allocate a half plot to a shared plot member if:

2.5.1 the names of the current plot holder and person who will take over the half share plot have been registered with the Council EITHER since the current plot holder originally took the plot OR for a minimum of 5 years, if not since originally registered; or

2.5.2 the shared plot member is on the waiting list and declines a plot offered by the Council and instead registers a preference to take over the half share plot as and when it becomes available.

2.6 Where new allotments are established, 50% of the plots will be allocated to local community applicants, based on postcode assessment. This allocation will be made regardless of whether the local community applicants have been on the allotment waiting list held by the Council. The other 50% of the plots will be offered to those on the allotment waiting list.