



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Minutes of FEDAGA Management Committee Meeting 7pm Tuesday 13 April 2021 - 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); Ernie Watt(EW)(Cambridge Ave)(Newsletter); Alison Hewitt (AH) (Warriston)(Planning); Paul Kerr (PK) (Redhall) (Minutes); Jan Bradbury(JB)(Saughton Mains); John Nesbit (JN)(Telferton/Craigentiny); Alice Bain(AB)(Warriston); Margaret Williamson (MW)(Stenhouse); Stuart Swarbrick (SSw) (Ferry Road); Alan Gordon(AG)(West Mains); Tana Holmes (TH)(Portobello East Jn.); Peter Wright (PW) (Lady Road); Lorna Henderson (LH)(Carrick Knowe); Sue Soutar (SS)(Baronscourt); Steve Mathieson (SM)(Leith Links); Neiria MacClure (NMcC) (Claremont Park); Heather MacPherson (HMacP) (Northfield).

1. Apologies

None

2. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the last Management Committee meeting held on Tuesday 9 March were proposed by PW and seconded by EW

3. Matters/Actions Arising

DR has been trying to get an agreement with Ian Woolard that the FEDAGA membership part of the annual allotment subscriptions will be paid by the end of April. **Action DR & IW**

SMcK wrote to Andrew Smith in Planning regarding FEDAGA being notified of new developments affecting allotment sites e.g. the Ropeworks development beside Leith Links. A reply was received the same day. Andrew Smith expressed the view that Parks & Greenspace should be consulted on this matter and has copied the emails to Alex Laidler who is in charge of Parks & Greenspace strategy. SMcK to contact Alex Laidler and the matter is to be discussed at the next Strategy meeting. **Action SMcK**

Allotment Show – a Zoom meeting was held on 6 April to discuss the options for this year. See Show Convenor's report for more details.

The leek orders now stand at 350.

Edible Edinburgh are holding a meeting this week, MW and SMcK will be attending this meeting at 2pm on Thursday.

4. Site Reports

Lady Road (PW)

A plot holder recently tripped over a tree root and fell over hurting her face in the process. As a result IW sent in a contractor to remove two mature trees on the site. One of the trees was a hornbeam and the other a spruce.

Barons Court (SS)

In response to the flooding problem IW has been in contact with a landscaping company who are going to transform two boggy plots into bog garden and plant up with bog loving plants. The Engineers said that pumping water out of the site wouldn't work due to the level of the water table and the composition of the soil.

Stenhouse (MW)

There is a pond on the site at Stenhouse called the wildlife garden. They applied for a grant and it was successful so they can now make some changes.

Northfield (HMacP)

We are still awaiting permission from the Roads Team for the work. Apparently, the water pipe under the road is not good enough and it will need to be replaced- provisionally in May sometime.

We were hoping for water at the end of this month but no final confirmation as yet.

Our lovely picnic bench is in situ and the parasol is almost organised - receipts still to be sent in for the small grant fund.

We now have a seed swap box for the community outside our allotment.

Leith Links (SM)

Site Admin: Barbara(Seel) has stepped down. Chelly & Issy have taken on the liaison with Ian Woolard (the day to day stuff and meet and greet)

Site Activity: Season has started well, all plots looking good, a number of new sheds, automatic hand sanitiser dispenser (courtesy of project 42) working well to keep plotholders safe

Inverleith (SMcK)

Our Climate Action grant Chipper has been delivered and demonstrated. We have a team of three people responsible for it, PPE has been provided. We held our first 'Chipper Sunday' which was popular. 'Doodle' was used to provide 15 minute slots to help social distancing. This will now become a last Sunday of every month feature.

After a few incidents of vandalism in the site, the Police visited for a Crime Prevention Review. They made recommendations for plot holders to help secure allotment sites; these have been included in the Newsletter

Midmar (JG)

We held a Committee meeting at the Communal Plot. It was decided to hold an open-air AGM in May (but lockdown restrictions would have to be lifted) on the Communal Plot, but to cancel the

Open Day (normally in August) in view of Covid. We discussed ways to improve communication with plot-holders. A Newsletter will be made by JG, emailed to registered members and available on the web site.

Ferry Road (SSw)

Very little to report; bin not been emptied.

Cambridge Ave (EW)

Full compost order from Caledonian Horticulture arrived after a delay. A rota was drawn up to ensure social distancing. Still waiting for a leaky tap to be fixed.

Carrick Knowe (LH)

We have asked Ian Woolard to check out our water supply at the eastern boundary of the site - no pressure at all and tap just dripping.

Could the small grants fund help us to repair our communal compost bins? This may help with the problem of tipping of garden waste around the site of late.

A few plot holders would like to borrow a shredder/chipper - is that possible, and what is the protocol?

We have worked with a graphic designer (one of our plot holders) and Willie's extensive knowledge of the site to prepare a new map - with names and plot numbers. We have this displayed on site, and the feedback has been very positive.

Any feedback on our plans to update the container and make it a more social space (for when government guidelines allow)?

5. President's Report (SMcK)

A newsletter has been sent from the new SAGS Board explaining their objectives along with a newly created website. Some information needs to be transferred from the old to the new website but it was agreed that this was a positive step. FEDAGA does want to be part of a national body representing allotments and would therefore re-join when our subscription becomes due. This is at a cost of £75 pa but there are benefits to being a member. This decision would be reviewed in 12months time.

PW commented that preferably we should have two members from FEDAGA sitting on the SAGS committee.

Action Point – SMcK requested two volunteers to get involved with SAGS. The SAGS meetings will be virtual, so there would be no travelling.

EW enquired if this should be included in the next FEDAGA Newsletter.

6. Secretary's report (EG)

Three enquiries have been received regarding how to apply for an allotment (forwarded to IW). Two enquiries have been received regarding two possible allotment sites namely at Pansy Walk and near to Lauriston Castle. Both sites are tentative (forwarded to IW).

SMcK commented that Murrayfield Community Council are have an interest in the Pansy Walk site and are keen for the site to return to be returned to use as allotments and not to be developed for housing.

One enquiry on how to sign up for the newsletter (Forwarded to EW & SMcK)

One person commented about a piece in the Newsletter about the value to gardeners of wasps in pollination and in controlling aphids and other plant pests (forwarded to Office bearers).

7. Treasurer's Report (DR)

The Financial Statement had been circulated prior to the meeting. The current balance stands at £13,782.35.

Victoria Parks award through the small grants scheme means that a 1000L PVC water tank is to be installed and connected to the roof drainage system of the building on site.

JB – work is going ahead at Saughton Mains to construct composting bays with the help of the Lothian Conservation Volunteers. Two sites still have to submit the appropriate form.

8. Maintenance (NMcC)

NMcC met with IW approximately 3 weeks ago and discussed the wish list of allotment works which includes tree works on some sites.

SM (Leith Links) enquired about shading from a neighbours' trees. JG commented that the existing allotment site rules covering this and this was also confirmed by PW.

9. Planning (AH)

No new planning applications of interest to report

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

A zoom meeting to discuss the prospects of a Show in 2021 was held on Tuesday 6th April. The general concerns are: (i) Covid regulations may require any show to be cancelled (ii) venues may not be available (iii) plot-holders may be fearful of attending. It was noted that some shows have been cancelled and replaced by on-line events (Dundee Flower and Food Festival) whilst others plan to go ahead as usual (NVS National Show in Haddington, September). The purpose of the FEDAGA show is not just about showing produce but also it is a chance to meet and talk about allotments.

Accordingly, we propose (i) a virtual show in September, like last year and (ii) later, a social event possibly in a marquee.

JG had looked into the cost of a Marquee for 100 people (12 by 30 metres) and the cost was £2880 plus VAT.(£3,356). In addition the marquee would need guarded for two night and a portaloos would have to be hired for additional cost. It was generally agreed that the cost for the marquee was prohibitively expensive.

An alternative proposal was a Beach Party possibly at Yellowcraig sands. It was also suggested that an approach could be made to Councillor Gordon who is involved with edible Edinburgh to see if we could possibly have use of a room in the City Chambers. JG suggested zoom meeting with Councillor Gordon to discuss ideas.

SSw suggested that the Winter Gardens at Saughton Park could be used; however, it is not known if the Bistro at the gardens is still in operation.

11. Trading (DR) and (SMcK)

BB has indicated that he will be stepping down as the Trading officer this year. AH has kindly put her name forwards as the new Trading officer . Proposed by DR and seconded by JB. DR to set up a ZOOM meeting for the official handover of the Trading role from BB to AH. DR will send round information regarding the future trading arrangements and is hoping that other committee members will assist. **Action DR**

12. AOCB

DR enquired of SS if the cubicles at Barons Court had been built yet. SS said it is a work in progress.

SSw commented on the proposed commemorative trophy in memory of Gilbert Clark OBE . SMcK requested that SSw write a summary of his final proposal which could then be circulated to the Committee for consideration. JB suggested a small grants scheme for community gardens in relation to the suggestions for a Gilbert Clark Memorial. **Action SSw**

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday May 11th2021 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.