



THE FEDERATION OF  
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT  
ALLOTMENTS AND  
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

## ***FEDAGA Management Team Meeting***

***7.15pm on Tuesday 8 May 2018 at Southside Community Centre***

**Present:** Stuart McKenzie (**SMcK**) ; Ernie Watt (**EW**) (Cambridge Avenue) Secretary; Dave Roberts (**DR**) (Telferton/Craigentenny) Treasurer; Paul Kerr(**PK**) (Redhall) Minute Secretary ; Maureen Edwards (**ME**) (Lady Road); Alison Hewitt (**AH**) (Warriston) Planning Applications; Liz Grace (**LG**)(Midmar) Secretary; Alice Bain (**AB**) (Warriston ; Peter Wright (**PW**) (Lady Road) ; Mary Simpson (MS) (Saughton Mains); Observers- Stuart Swarbrick (SS) (Ferry Road)

**1. Apologies :** Treasurer John Grace (**JG**) (Midmar) Allotment Show; Gilbert Clark (**GC**)(Midmar);Neiria MacClure (**NMacC**) (Claremont Park) ;David Morrice (DM) (Restalrig); Mary Simpson (MS) (Saughton Mains) – apology for the next June meeting

### **2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting :**

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 10 April were Proposed by EW and Seconded by LG

### **3. Matters arising - None**

**4. Site Reports -** The padlock for the gate at Cambridge Avenue is falling apart- a new one has been ordered through Ian Woolard (**EW**)

Hutchison Loan doesn't have a mains water supply. This matter was raised with the Council however they advised that it would be prohibitively expensive to install mains water. The site which has only seven plots currently obtains water by hosepipe from a near neighbour to the site (KH).

There will be a plant sale at Warriston on Sunday to raise site funds .The broken water tap has been fixed(**AH**).

Bridgend recently had a coffee morning to raise site funds. Their new restaurant is not up and running yet. They have discovered some flat worms on their site (MMcL).

Saughton Mains have an annual general meeting coming up. The skip which they ordered to help clear the site of rubbish filled up very quickly. They are arranging for a haulage company (NWH to collect several tonnes of manure from Edinburgh Zoo and then deliver to the site. This will cost them £80 plus VAT for 20 tonnes. The manure is free and the collection arrangement is

made with Robert Hardin, the Head Zookeeper. They have a problem with voles on the site eating into everything. Ian Woolard is doing a good job about removing plottolders when they are not maintaining their plot. Thanks to Stewart for the advice he gave on health and safety on allotment sites in respect of public open days(RW).

Midmar - a water pipe burst in the wood cabin but a handy plottolder managed to repair it. There are not enough people on the Committee at Midmar at the moment with people leaving (LG).

Redhall had a site meeting on Sunday 6 May (PK)

Inverleith- Stuart has been asked to give a presentation to Dunblane allotments on setting up an allotment website and will be travelling up to meet with them. A skip was hired at Inverleith for rubbish and filled very quickly. Their site was inspected recently by Ian Woolard. A fox is dealing with their reduced rabbit problem on site (SMcK).

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## 5. President's Report:

Ian has not yet provided a date for the next Strategy Meeting.

The new allotment regulations still haven't been published (PW).

Proposal from DR that FEDAGA writes to the Council to find out the current position with this. SMcK advised he will write to Council regarding this matter **Action Point**

New plot holders will be sent a letter from their site to welcome them. The letter should be written by the individual sites and then referred to Ian Woolard who will copy it and give to new plottolders to provide essential information (SMcK) **Action Point**

## 6. Secretary's Report:

The minutes of previous FEDAGA management meeting on 10 April were previously circulated. FEDAGA was contacted by Kathleen Vaughn of Changeworks regarding the event "Feed 1000 event in Leith" asking if we could help to provide any surplus produce and volunteer(s) for help in demonstrating how to grow windowsill salads.

The event took place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 3 venues across Leith: The Out of the Blue Drill Hall, the Leith Community Croft and the Citadel Youth Centre. A Feed the 1000 event takes surplus food that would otherwise have been wasted and instead turns it into a Free Feast For All! Leeks, rhubarb, parsnips, brassica leaves were provided by Midmar. Other sites also donated some vegetables. Broccoli leaves were supplied by (DR). DR who wasn't able to attend on the day, provided instruction to some volunteers on how to grow your own at home. The event Organiser Kathleen made enough food including a vegetable gratin and potato and leek soup to feed 650 people. FEDAGA have been contacted by Gary McGirr who runs a stall selling Vegan food

called vegan Sauvage. He has a green house containin polystyrene boxes and planter trays for recycle and asks if there is any member interested in taking up his offer (LG).

Site Registration Application forms to join FEDAGA have been received from Duddingston Vegetable Garden and Killendean (Livingston).

An MSc student ,Maggie McIver at SRUC is looking to sample the difference between Dig and No Dig on allotment site plots and is looking for volunteers to assist her with this. EW included her contact details and ana explanantion of her research project in the last FEDAGA newsletter. This resulted in a flurry of plot holders offering to volunteer to have their soil analysed.

### **7. Treasurer's Report:**

There is currently £13,262.72 in the FEDAGA Account before the subscription payment from CEC. The final amount with the subscription payment is approximately £17,000. CEC has made a subscription payment based on 1,414 plots.

All allotment sites are to carry out an audit of the number of full and half plots on their individual sites and notify FEDAGA of the results. This will assist in knowing if FEDAGA is receiving the correct subscription amount from CEC (DR). **Action Point**

### **8. Annual Show**

No report . A poster is being prepared by EW for the forthcoming show.  
**Action point**

AH is doing a piece on the From Plot to Plate category for the next FEDAGA Newsletter **Action Point.**

### **9. Planning**

Nothing found of interest relating to allotment sites amongst recent planning applications (AH)

### **10. Trading**

No report

### **11. AOCB**

A talk will be given at the next meeting on Tuesday 12 June by Jill Jackson on her research project – My Harvest (LG)

Details of the Dundee Flower Show trip on Saturday 1 September have been circulated via the FEDAGA website. Places are strictly limited and available on a first come first served basis. The coach can accommodate 33 people .A non- refundable deposit will be taken at the time of booking.

An apple storage box purchased by someone at Inverleith but no longer required was offered up for the price of a donation and an interested plot holder took advantage of the offer.

Date of Next Meeting - **Tuesday 12 June 2018**