



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Minutes of FEDAGA Management Committee Meeting 7pm Tuesday 8 June 2021 - Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Present

Stuart McKenzie (SMcK)(Inverleith)(President); Dave Roberts (DR) (Telferton; Craigentenny)(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/Craigentenny); Stuart Swarbrick (SS) (Ferry Road); Peter Wright (PW)(Lady Road); Neiria McClure (NMCC) (Claremont Park); Alan Gordon(AG)(West Mains); Heather MacPherson(HMacP)(Northfield); Lorna Henderson(LH) (Carricknowe)

1. Apologies

Steve Mathieson (Leith Links), Alice Bain (Warriston), Tana Holmes (Portobello), Pamela McKay (Lethem Park)

2. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the last Management Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11 May were proposed by PW and seconded by EW

3. Matters/Actions Arising

Action Point - AH – managed to log into the Council's Planning Portal and check on current applications/consultations. Up to 10 searches can be saved. Applications can be tracked and notifications requested for tracked applications. The Cala Homes site next to St Crispin's is going to planning consultation.

4. Site Reports

Ferry Road (SS)

Still fairly quiet, no major problems but a couple of queries/issues raised that I promised to pass on to Mr Woolard and FEDAGA.

Query: are Barbecues allowed on the plots? I'm sure they were allowed last year, as long as current Government guidance was followed. Perhaps something for the next newsletter?

No bin uplift for a few weeks.

Communal paths - there have been a few issues with paths between plots.

Ferry Road Chipper/Shredder. I had booked a van to do some errands for my Mum, and took the opportunity to take a couple of photos of the folding ramps and the machine going in the back of the Car Club van. I had to unfold/fold the chipper hopper to get it passed the doorframe (which curves lower than the load space inside) but it fit fine and there's plenty of lashing points. Looking forward to getting it out to the other sites soon. (if anyone wants further details, please contact Stuart Swarbrick).

West Mains (AG)

AG put in to the local area consultation about the need for parking for plot holders as some come from a long way away and some are carrying heavy equipment or delicate seedlings. On average there are two cars parked at a time.

Also, there is a problem of lots of water coming from springs originating from Blackford Hill. Some plots next to the school get saturated with the water table only inches below the surface. Concern has been expressed re any buildings work blocking water drainage to the new building area from the allotments.

AG received an email saying that the concerns were sent to the engineer in charge. As no contact has come from the engineer, it is our intention to put in an objection to the proposals. Formal planning application is due to be submitted in the next couple of weeks. If there are 20 or more objections from all sources the application goes to the Planning Committee. If necessary, AG will ask plotholders adjacent to the development to add their objection to ensure the magic number of 20 is reached.

Northfield (HMacP)

The water pipe and tap is now installed but we are waiting on Scottish Water to inspect it and connect it. We don't know how long this will take. We have no water so Ian has organised for an IBC to be filled again.

Carrickknowe

Ian Woolard promised the removal of rubbish from the boundary - can we have this organised as soon as possible please.

Action Point – IW

Have any other sites had AGMs or meetings yet? If so - what numbers were allowed and were they indoors or out?

We remind Ian W that the weeds should be strimmed back along the tram boundary for the length of the site TWICE a year. They have not been done yet and are beginning to pose a problem as they seed.

Action point – IW

Could the small grants fund help us to plant a wildlife hedge along the boundary with the tram? This would help keep the weeds down too.

Portobello

Can I just pass on huge thanks for the leeks and also for the strimmer grant.

Warriston (AB/AH)

A wall at the cottage has been rebuilt by the council.

Midmar (JG)

An enquiry was received from a Choir about practicing on the site in the communal area. They were advised that this would not be allowed. However, it was suggested that they could practice in the paddock.

Saughton Mains (JB)

The leek order was well received. Ian Woolard was contacted regarding plotholders having bonfires on the site despite the current ban. IW is to speak to the plotholders concerned.

5. President's Report (SMcK)

The Allotment Strategy Group meeting was attended by Cllr George Gordon and Vivienne Swan who chair and administer the Edible Edinburgh group. They have an interest in allotments along with community gardens etc to reduce food miles and improve food quality.

The Council have agreed a budget of £130K for new allotments in the next financial year.

A new site at Lismore is expected to be created soon. Another 5 sites are lined up. Balgreen may be available too as it is understood the Council have decided against housing due to the railway noise and threat of flooding.

The Food Growing Strategy is published and available to download (see - <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/edinburgh-food-growing-strategy/>)

The Allotment Regulations are to go before the Council next week and should be available on the Council's portal (no idea how to find this). No significant changes have been made since our last review.

Bonfires and chipping were discussed. We're hoping that a chipping service could be offered to allotment sites using the forestry equipment rather than all sites trying to buy their own equipment, insurance, PPE etc.

FEDAGA subscription money has not been received despite being promised at the end of April.

A breakdown of allotment expenditure was presented.

The waiting list now stands at 4,285 having risen by 2,000 since March.

Agreement was reached that we could use the FEDAGA membership data on a trial basis at Midmar to send their newsletter.

6. Secretary's report (EG)

Two enquiries were received enquiring about how to get a Council allotment. One enquiry was received asking about how to receive the Newsletter.

7. Treasurer's Report (DR)

FEDGAGA Funds currently stand at £12,649.58

I have chased Ian Woolard before April to pay FEDAGA at the end of April. Despite the commitment of both Ian and Bob that this would happen. It has not and as of the 8th of June no money has been transferred. It was raised with them today at the strategy meeting. They indicated that it could take up to 60 days to process. I will release the funds as soon as I have the breakdown of Kings seeds and process the Pots, onions and leek returns.

A successful first year of the Small Grants Scheme spent **£1,889.72** to date just waiting on the costs for Lethem Park.

The scheme will be rerun next financial year watch this space.

See Appendix 1 for details of this year's spend.

AG commented that wood chippings should be re-used on sites.

EG commented that the issue of plots being passed onto immediate relatives was an emotive one. In the new allotment Regulations it was not possible for a relative to inherit a plot unless a spouse or partner.

8. Maintenance (NMCC)

NMCC met with Ian Woolard on 19 May regarding the allotment works and has updated the Spreadsheet.

9. Planning (AH)

No new applications, although the Ropeworks development affecting the Leith Links site has on the portal that the current plot holders are aware of it.18/10524/VAR3 | Proposed non

material variation to remove the provision of a path and gate between existing and proposed new allotments. | Former 9 - 21 Salamander Place Edinburgh.

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

JG to modify last year's virtual Show posters for distribution.

EW will put an article in the next newsletter regarding the virtual Show.

LH at Carrickknowe allotments commented that there is a graphic designer at their site who could help with the poster design. JG to email LH regarding this. **Action JG and LH**

JG would like to receive information on how much Edinburgh's allotments contribute to vegetable consumption in Edinburgh.

PW commented that he used to keep a diary log of produce grown on his plot. This may still be found on the SAGS website – 'Pete's Produce'

11. Trading (AH)

AH and SMcK have been working on new forms which are Excel documents and do the adding up. There is a greater variety of potato varieties.

Garlic cannot be provided on the order form due to the different time availability of Potatoes (Sep/Oct) and Garlic (Aug/Sep).

SMcK suggested that we could have a garlic buyers event at an allotment site. It is hoped to put out a survey details in the Newsletter/website to gauge interest for an event so we know how much garlic to order. Possibly a survey monkey. There are different shallot varieties this year but onions and leeks have stayed the same.

The new order forms can't be issued until the company finalise their varieties in September or October. LH suggested that we could have an event similar to Bridgend and provide a vegetable curry for prospective Customers.

12. AOCB

A vote was taken on the proposal for a Gilbert Clark Foundation. The vote was carried unanimously. **Action Point** - SMcK to contact the family of Gilbert Clark to explain the proposal.

MW commented that they have now received the funds they applied for. Tesco's have put up a sign in their Corstorphine store informing customers that they have gifted money to the Stenhouse Allotments. With this funding and from the Small Grants Scheme a wild life pond and flower planted area has been created. Receipts are to be submitted for other works.

DR – next year the small grants scheme will be re-named as the Gilbert Clark Foundation. **Action DR** Commemorative plaques are to be considered.

Sites which have had a grant before are not taken into consideration.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 7pm using internet conferencing. Please note that this will be a social event and no official business will be discussed. The event will not be minuted. Bring your own tittle or soft drink and snacks.

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.

Appendix1

Site Name	Brief Description	Cost
Baronscourt	Compost bins, trolleys	£ 133.44
Ferry Road	Blower/shredder 2 x wheelbarrows	£ 135.50
Findlay Avenue	Trolleys x2	£ 49.87
Lady Road	Trolleys x1	£ 60.00
Northfield drive	Create communal area	£ 185.94
Portobello East	Jcn Paths (strimmer purchased)	£ 137.71
Redhall	Rat traps	Unsuccessful
Restalrig	Purchase of trolley	£ 60.00
Saughton Mains	Composting bins (Materials)	£ 337.29
Stenhouse	Create pond/wildlife area and seating	£ 96.97
Victoria Park	Water butts x 2 and installation	£ 135.00
Lethem Park	Composting bins	Awaiting costs/completion
Total £ 1,889.72		