

Minutes of FEDAGA Management Committee Meeting 7pm Tuesday 9th April 2019 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Stuart McKenzie (Inverleith) (President) (SMcK); Dave Roberts(Craigentenny-Telferton)(Treasurer)(DR); Ernie Watt (Cambridge Ave) (Newsletter) (EW); Liz Grace (Midmar) (Secretary) (EG); Maureen Edwards (Lady Road)(ME); Paul Kerr (Redhall) (Minutes) (PK); Alison Hewitt (Warriston) (AH); Neiria MacClure (Claremont Park) (NMacC); Alice Bain (Warriston) (AB); David Morrice (Restalrig); Alexis McKay (Ferry Road); Jake Booth (Carrickknowe); Jane Robinson (West Mains)

1. Apologies: John Grace (Midmar)(JG); Yvonne Dawe (Saughton Mains) (YD); Peter Wright (Lady Road) (PW) ; Stuart Swarbrick (SS); Heather Macpherson (Northfield); John Nisbet(Craigentenny/Telferton)(JN)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th March had been circulated and were approved; proposed by DR and seconded by AH.

3. Matters Arising: JG has purchased a microphone for his camera to allow good audio recordings when recording the allotment podcasts.

He would like volunteers who are prepared to take part in the recordings to make direct contact with him. So far John McKinlay has volunteered to talk about raspberries and EG on the subject of Leeks. Possible topics are growing salad vegetables; apple/plum/damson tree care; composting; fruit bush care; insect /pest control; disease control etc.

IW to set up another strategy group meeting. Bob McAllister at CEC has suggested sometime in May but no date set up. **Action Point IW**

Some sites are still having problems arranging for online Bank Accounts. SS (Ferry Road) has had ongoing problems getting an online bank account. EG has advised SS; other sites eg Warriston and Inverleith have set up online accounts.

4. Site Reports:

Warriston - the roof on the gardener's cottage is to be repaired. The new communal area which has been under cover for two years is now clear of weeds and is to be tidied up for use. The plan is to turf part of the area by sowing grass seed and clover seed will also be sown. Fruit trees and benches are planned for other parts of the site. There are several new plottolders on the site which is encouraging (AB).

Claremont – No report -all quiet (NMacC)

Carricknowe – no report (JB)

Cambridge Ave - they are receiving a communal delivery of compost to the site in the near future (EW)

Ferry Road – a site clear up is planned and a van is being hired to take away the rubbish (A McK)

West Mains – have had a problem with water leaking under the door of the communal cabin which over the years has caused the wooden floor to decay. This is being replaced in the near future. A volunteer offered to create a site map using google maps. This has stimulated interest from plot holders(JR).

Midmar - EG enquired about doing site maps and the problems identifying the boundaries of individual plots. A skip has been hired to help clean up the site.(EG)

Redhall – no report

Restalrig – someone got stuck in the site toilet recently. A new handle is to be fitted to the door. They have had a site meeting and new plot holders came along which was good to see. They have also made contact with Prospect Bank allotments and have given them information on joining their site association. They have asked to have access to Restalrig's communal waste bin (DM)

Prospect Bank – DR commented that a sum of £56 was historically available to Prospect Bank through FEDAGA

Telferton/Craigentenny – received 2 grants one to pay for the removal of an old hut constructed from asbestos sheeting and the other grant will also pay for the removal of two large trees which have been deemed to be dangerous. The waste wood will be chipped on site and made available to plottolders for use on the site. A new site hut is being delivered on 11 May. On 29 April a site clean up day is planned to remove any rubbish from the site. (DR)

EW commented that grants of this type which can potentially be available through the Neighbourhood Partnerships would be of great value to other affiliated sites such as Portobello. It was agreed that Portobello and Dean Allotments would be contacted in relation to this matter. **Action Point EW**

DR is to get further details of what grants are available and contact information and will report back to FEDAGA. **Action Point DR**

Inverleith - An aerial photograph of Inverleith has won a Scottish Wildlife photography competition by using a drone. They have bought a large quantity of compost from Clyde-side Trading who provided their own forklift truck to bring the compost on site. Inverleith were impressed with the level of service provided. (SMcK)

5. Presidents Report: SAGS are about to become a Scottish charitable incorporated organisation (SCIO). The SAGS Annual Gathering will take place on Saturday 15th June 2019 from 9.30am at the Victoria Halls, Dunblane. The SAGS AGM will take place after the Gathering. Gardening Scotland will take place this year over 31 May – 2 June. The trip to Killendean allotments in Livingston was a great success and prove to be very interesting. Every year at their AGM they get everyone to sign up to minimum standards on the site including a minimum area of cultivation. The Dundee Flower Show trip proposed for later in the year is to go ahead. For those who expressed an interest in taking part in the SASA potato growing scheme, the potatoes will be available in the next two weeks (SMcK).

6. Secretary's Report: various events have been notified to FEDAGA. Gardeners Question Time hosted by George Anderson at St. Phillip's Parish Church in Joppa. Tickets are £7. Bridgend - Autistic Gardener event was held last weekend. Musselburgh Horticultural Society are holding a plant sale on 4 May. A photographer has been in contact and wants to take photographs of Edinburgh allotment sites. Duddingston Community Garden open day and tool sharpening event will take place on 28th April – check the FEDAGA website events page for further details. (EG)

7. Treasurers Report (DR): There has been very little activity on the account with only £3.50 change since last month. DR is awaiting information from Ian Woolard (IW) the Council Allotments Officer on site association fees based on who has paid.

Current Balance is £9024.71

8. Maintenance: the maintenance list for allotment sites has been handed over to IW (NMacC)

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

10. Trading: the last bag of onions was sold last week. All the potatoes, onions and shallots at the Inverleith allotment shop have now been sold. Unfortunately the last bag of potatoes was eaten by a rodent - pest proofing work will be needed in the shop. (SMcK)

11. Allotment Show: the hall at Nicolson Square has been booked for the annual allotment show on Saturday 14th September. This is the week after the Dundee Flower Show. The Lord provost has been invited again to do the prize giving.(SMcK)

12. AOCB: AB requested that Honey be added to the allotment show exhibit programme. After discussion it was decided that honey bees were not actively managed on enough FEDAGA sites. DR has spoken to Gardening Solutions regarding the bulk supply of compost and they are giving 10% discount due to the large size of the order (£800).The compost is to be delivered to various allotment sites affiliated to FEDAGA which do not have a bank account as a means of giving them back the moneys they are due.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 7pm