



THE FEDERATION OF  
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT  
ALLOTMENTS AND  
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

## ***FEDAGA Management Committee Meeting***

***7.00pm on Tuesday 10 December 2019 at Southside Community Centre***

**Present** - Stuart McKenzie (**SMcK**)(Inverleith); Dave Roberts(**DR**)(Craigeninny/Telferton) ; Ernie Watt(**EW**) (Cambridge Ave); Paul Kerr (**PK**) (Redhall) ; Maureen Edwards(**ME**)(Lady Road); Alan Gordon(**AG**)(West Mains) ; John Nisbet(**JN**) (Teleferon/Craigeninny);Jan Bradbury (**JB**)(Saughton Mains); Edward Irvine (**EI**)(Saughton Mains);Chris McKinnell(**CMcK**) (Lady Road); David Morrice(**DM**) (Restalrig) ; Margaret Livingstone(**ML**) (Stenhouse)

**1. Apologies** - Elizabeth Grace(**EG**)(Midmar); John Grace(**JG**)(Midmar); Alison Hewitt(**AH**)(Warriston); Neiria McClure(**NMcC**)(Claremont Park); Yvonne Dawes(**YD**); Heather McPherson(**HMcP**); Peter Wright(**PW**)(Lady Road)

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

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2019 had been Circulated and were approved. Proposed by EW . Seconded by PK

### **3. Matters Arising/Action Points**

First Aid Course - a discussion followed about the proposal to arrange for a group training session on basic First Aid by an approved First Aid training provider. (**SMcK**) It would cost around £400 for a days training to a group of 25 people which is very good value for money. The view was expressed that this would only benefit those attending and not sites as a whole. Another query was what would happen in the event a trained First Aider on a site was not on the site at the time of an accident . (**SMcK**) In these cases the injured party would need to seek medical assistance in the normal way or administer self first aid as most injuries on sites are minor.(**CMcK** ) suggested that the ploholders on sites who already hold a current First Aid Certificate be identified and be made known to their particular sites. (**JB**) commented that ploholdersd should be reminded of the dangers of lone working particularly in the shorter Winter days. (**ME**) commented that she had been on her site for 26 years and the only major incident had been to a ploholder who had a heart attack at the gate when leaving the site. (**EW**) commented that the Ploholders Guide should be updated to take onboard some of these matters. (**SMcK**) The small grants scheme proposed at the

last meeting by (ME) is a good one. The scheme would be open to all sites and would make available small grants up to a maximum amount of 200-300 pounds ,but this would need to be agreed on by the Committee. Sites would need to demonstrate that they needed the money and what the money was to be used for. A grant was unlikely to be approved if a site had a healthy bank balance and sufficient funds to pay for the item/work themselves. (DR) commented that the minimum balance FEDAGA would need to function is £8,000 and the current balance is £12,000. Therefore potentially £4000 could be made available for the project. However this could impact on the current arrangement whereby all sites are refunded £2 by FEDAGA for every plotholder. There would need to be a list of rules and a suitable application form. (SMcK) enquired if anyone was willing to work on this project. JB said that she would put together some basic guidelines for the grant's scheme for the Committee to consider. The general view was that smaller sites would gain the most benefit from the grant's scheme as they would have less funds available.

#### 4. Site Reports

**Saughton Mains (JB)**- for their recent delivery of manure from Edinburgh Zoo they used Midlothian Skip hire who charged an hourly rate and turned out to be very expensive compared with NWH who were used in the previous year. The manure was sold to plotholders for £1 /barrowload and was all used up within 24 hours. They had a 9-4pm rota system filling wheel barrows on the site.

**Telferton/Craigentenny (JN)** - held their AGM on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December which went very well.

The site held a "winter warmer" which has replaced Bonfire night. The food and drink was supplied by the plot holders, three kind of soup and home made bread, tray bakes/cakes were enjoyed by both plot holders and the community of Telferton.

**West Mains (AG)** - The AGM was inquorate and they had a subsequent meeting. JR and AG are the site reps for West Mains.

**Stenhouse (ML)** - the liner of their wildlife pond burst and the surrounding ground has become very marshy. They are hoping to completely redesign this area. They are looking into Lottery funding. There are raised beds at one end of the allotment site but this area is not connected to the main site. They are looking into funding which would allow both parts of the site to be joined by a footpath. As this would involve knocking through an existing wall talks with the Council will be necessary. SMcK advised ML to get in contact with NMCC who liaises with Ian Woolard on improvement works needed on sites. DR commented that FEDAGA should be asking Ian Woolard to consider our site maintenance - wish list within his budget for 2020.

**Action Point (For all sites) (DR)**- all sites to provide details to FEDAGA by the end of January , of works that they wish to be considered within the 2020 Council allotments maintenance-repairs budget.

**Redhall (PKE)** - no matters to report

**Inverleith (SMcK)** - Inverleith has a 'soggy' patch at the entrance to the site. They have been trying to arrange for a woodchip delivery to this area to help soak up the excess water and stabilise the ground. The old communal compost bins have been revamped. The three compost bins have become two. These are 2mx 1m wooden boxes with lids. The work was done by Waste Aware.

DR, EW and SMcK visited Baronscourt allotments three weeks ago to have a look around their site which is situated behind the large Morrisons store. The meeting also included a chat about running a committee banking accounts etc. This is a small thriving site. It has an issue with standing water on part of the site which has possibly been caused by damage to drains in the area by recent construction work.

**5. Presidents Report (SMcK)** – IW has passed the newest version of the new Allotment Regulations to the Strategy Group in order that they can comment further on the proposals.

It is anticipated that these draft Regulations will be circulated widely in the new year.

SAGS has become a SCIO to provide them with legal protection when they are involved in writing contracts.

**6. Secretary's Report (EG)**

No matters to report

**7. Treasurer's Report (DR)**

Current Balance is £12,288.90.

The bulk potato, onion shallot order to Kings Seeds has been paid for in advance. The Costs for the annual Allotment Show have come in. The hire cost of the hall was significantly up on last year. Other venues will be considered for next year's show including the City Chambers.

EW has the FEDAGA cheque book if any cheques need to be written when DR is on holiday.

**8. Maintenance (NMCC)**

**Action Point** - all sites to provide their site wish list for maintenance – repair works by the end of January

**9. Planning (AH)**

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

**10. Trading (BB)**

No report at this time.

SMcK and DR will both be on holiday when the Kings Seeds potato, onion, shallot delivery is made.

**11. AOCB –**

CMcK spoke about his bird, butterfly and bumble bee spotting and recording at Lady Road Allotments and suggested that this activity could be extended to all sites in Edinburgh. The spotting would be done over three separate months in Spring, Summer and Winter. He proposed that Site Reps for each site could nominate someone who would be interested in doing the spotting on their particular site and that the contact details of this person could then be forwarded to him for follow up.

**Action Point** - CMcK is to prepare a letter regarding this proposal which will then be forwarded to EG (Secretary) for circulation to all site reps.

ME commented that it is good for wildlife if dead flowers are left over Winter rather than cutting them all down as the seed heads provide a source of food for birds. In addition piles of dead leaves can provide harbourage for small animals. EW thanked CMcK for his monthly wildlife reports which feature in the monthly FEDAGA Newsletter. SMcK – SAGS have money from the Scottish Government via the Scottish Community Alliance. £20K was spent this year on packages of tools for allotment sites.

AG commented on the Allotment Glutbusting Cookbook which was recently sent out by EG On the suggestion of PW. It was agreed that the Cookbook would be posted on the FEDAGA Website and a £100 donation would be given to the Social Bite charity. Please help Social Bite which is an organisation helping the homeless by sending a donation; there is a deadline set of 24th December.

**12. Date of Next Meeting** – Tuesday 11 February 7pm.