



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

FEDAGA Management Team Meeting

7.15pm on Tuesday 20 February 2018 at Southside Community Centre

Present: Stuart McKenzie (SMcK) ; Ernie Watt (EW) (Cambridge Avenue) Secretary; John Grace (JG) (Midmar) Allotment Show; Paul Kerr(PK) (Redhall) Minute Secretary; Neiria MacClure (NMacC)(Claremont Park) Allotment Officer Liaison; Gilbert Clark (GC)(Midmar); Maureen Edwards (ME) (Lady Road); A Hewitt (Warriston); David Morrice (DM) (Restalrig); Liz Grace (LG) (Midmar);

1. Apologies: Dave Roberts (DR) (Telferton/Craigentenny) Treasurer ; Alice Bain (AB) (Warriston); Dennis Stephens ; Brian Bleakley (Midmar) Trading ; Peter Wright (PW) (Lady Road)

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The Minutes were Proposed by EW and Seconded
by N MacC

3. Action Points - Clarification on the availability of the Methodist Church Hall for the annual Allotment Show on Saturday 8 September 2018 – confirmed the Hall is available on this date **JG**

4. President's Report:

Stuart is helping to put together the next SAGS Conference and to make it more appealing to a wider audience than before. He has designed a new poster which will be used to advertise the event at allotment sites. They are currently planning for who will appear and hope to include some presentations which will be of wider interest. This is an important year as it is the SAGS Centenary year. The research student who undertook the research into SAGS history is also preparing a book on the subject. A tripartite group has been set up by the Scottish Government which includes the Scottish Government, SAGS and the Local Authority. They will consider the Community

Empowerment Act and how it should be implemented. The Act refers to a standard plot size as being 250 square metres. However local authorities are now introducing raised beds and 1/2 plots into their allotment strategies.

Our partnership with Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) continues for a fourth year. Details to follow in later in the year (**SMcK**).

5. Secretary's Report:

The minutes of previous FEDAGA management meeting on 14 November 2017 were previously circulated.

An organisation called MECOPP (Minority Ethnic Carers of people project) contacted FEDAGA and are interested in the history of growing food plants in Edinburgh. Brian Thompson (Midmar) and Stuart (Inverleith) helped provide Emma Jane with information.

A Garden design course has been organised by SRUC, Scotland's Rural College. It is to be delivered on Saturdays and commenced on February 3. It will run for 9 weeks at the Kings Buildings campus. The information is detailed in the FEDAGA newsletter.

Gorgie City Farm, 51 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2LA are organising a seed swop day on Saturday 12 March from 10.30 am to 15.30pm.

Trellis Annual Conference 2018 - Friday 9 March. This organisation is concerned with therapeutic gardening, the art of using gardening to help people take care of their physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

Jill Edmondson from Sheffield University is conducting research concerning the growing of food crops on allotment sites and has already made contact with representatives of four sites which were randomly selected and include Inverleith, Warriston, Bridgend and Saughton. We would like her to come and tell us about her research project in June when she will be in Edinburgh conducting her research.

There are two events on Sunday 25th February-

Garden tool sharpening day at Duddingston Community Garden, Old Dairy Vennel, the Causeway, Duddingston Village. Bridgend will be holding it's annual Potato Day.

It was subsequently announced that these events had been cancelled due to the extreme weather.

Bridgend would also like to announce their Grand Opening at the Farmhouse, from 1pm to 11pm on Saturday 24th March. Bridgend Farmhouse will be a centre for Learning, Eating and Exercise.(LG)

6. Treasurer's Report: No report

7. Site Reports:

Hawkhill allotments - These closed 17-18 years ago. However old documents have been handed in to the City Archivist and an article is to be prepared on this site for the next newsletter (**EW**)

Saughton allotments will be painting their own site gates when the weather is more favourable.

At Lady Road, the Powburn goes through the site and the culvert often gets blocked during heavy rainfall. Scottish Water are installing a metal grid to prevent the culvert from becoming blocked with tree branches, leaves, rubbish etc. However they have been told that ploholders will be responsible for clearing the grid. The grid should help prevent the flooding at the site by preventing the culvert from being blocked. (**ME**)

The leaf mould composting bin has been installed at Warriston (**AH**)

Some of the beech saplings planted as a hedge outside the perimeter fence at Midmar 15 years ago have grown large due to lack of cutting back; this will result in rise mature trees close to the fence, adding to the existing problem of large trees. (**GC**)

8. Maintenance:

The sites' maintenance list has been discussed with Ian Woolard who is to come to the next meeting in March.

NMacC asked if there were any additions to be made to the wish list from sites -

1. The composting toilet at Restalrig is broken
2. The banking at the side of the burn at lady Road is damaged in areas.
3. Overhanging trees at the cemetery (**ME**)
4. Leaking tap at Plot 8 Cambridge Avenue (**EW**)

9. Planning:

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

10. Trading:

The potatoes were delivered to Inverleith Allotments on Wednesday 21 February as planned. Site Reps collected their respective orders on the day and some collected at the shop the following Sunday. The shop will be open

again on Sunday 11th March 14.00 -15.30pm. It was closed on 4th due to the extreme weather.

The Rock dust order was delivered to sites. At Redhall the lorry could not get down the road and the pallet of sacks had to be manually carried onto the site by a few ploholders at the site. There efforts are appreciated.

11. Annual Show report

A planning meeting has been arranged by JG for Monday 5th March. He is interested in doing something different at this years' show. A plot holder at Midmar is keen on doing an apple press demonstration. **(JG) Action Point**

12. AOCB

Four sites have been chosen at random for Research scientist Jill Edmondson's research project-

Inverleith, Warriston, Saughton and Bridgend.

She will be invited to the June FEDAGA meeting to talk about her project. LG will contact her **(LG)**

Dates for the allotment shop at Inverleith - Sunday 25 February and Sunday 11 March - 14.00 - 15.30pm

Date of Next Meeting - **Tuesday 13th March 19.15**