



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

FEDAGA Management Team Meeting

7.15pm on Tuesday 12 June 2018 at Southside Community Centre

Present : Stuart McKenzie (**SMcK**) (Inverleith) President ; Ernie Watt (**EW**) (Cambridge Ave); Dave Roberts (**DR**) (Craigentinny ;Telferton) (Treasurer); Elizabeth Grace (EG) (Secretary); John Grace (**JG**) (Allotment Show);Mary Simpson (**MS**)(Saughton Mains); Peter Wright (Lady Rd.); Paul Kerr (**PK**) (Redhall) (Minutes); Alison Hewitt (Warriston); Alice Bain (Warriston);Margaret McLennan (Saughton) Neiria MacClure (**NMcC**) (Claremont Park).
Observers: Stuart Swarbrick (SS)(Ferry Road)

1. Apologies: Gilbert Clark (**GC**) (Midmar); Rosina Weightman (**RW**)(Saughton Mains).

2. Matters Arising - none

3. Site Reports:

Midmar had their AGM recently and about 30 people attended including some new plot holders. One new plot holder has a ¼ sized plot and is wondering how he will be able to fit a greenhouse and a hut on this relatively small space.They also had a useful discussion at the end about the ecological composting toilet as the person who has been maintaining it has now left. They are going to suggest a maintenance/cleaning rota ,otherwise they will dispense with it. Someone has built a large concrete plinth for a telescope on their plot(JG).

Saughton Mains – the bulk delivery of manure from Edinburgh Zoo went according to plan and by charging a modest amount of 3 barrows for £1 they cleared their overheads for the haulage cost.If any other sites are interested in arranging for a bulk delivery they should contact the Head Zookeeper, Ross.(MS).

Claremont Park -routinely clean their composting toilet. Arrangements for providing sawdust for the composting toilet have been problematic (NMcC)

Warriston – held a very successful plant sale day and raised £350 for site funds (**AH**).
Stenhouse- a report received from Alan Wilson informing FEDAGA that they have held a successful AGM and had their first social event of the year which was a BBQ. They have a problem with mares tail on their site. They have three bee hives on their site and have no problems with them(AW)

Action Point – all allotment sites are to provide details of the number of plot holders on their sites in order that FEDAGA can check the correct monies are being re-funded. All site reps to provide this information as soon as possible (**SMcK**).

Lady Road – A request has been received from Sophie Forbes who is undertaking research for her MSc thesis on how noise affects invertebrates on allotment sites. She has selected four sites including lady Road, Midmar and Bridgend. She will give a talk to Lady Road/FEDAGA after her project work is completed. Lady road recently had a successful community day on their site. They have some Giant Hogweed on the site which is a notifiable weed that is very difficult to eradicate. The Council's responsibility for controlling the weed only extends to a strip around the perimeter of the site. (PW)

4. Presidents Report - No strategy meeting has been arranged yet. The Council are going to redo the rules for allotment site but they will need to wait for the new rules being approved by the Scottish Government. The new Regulations are in the process of being approved by Government. The Food Growing Strategy (part of the Community Empowerment Act) and guidance for local authorities will be coming out for consultation later this month, and we will provide our comments.

The SAGS gathering is next weekend. Stuart met up with Tony Stanton who was previously on the FEDAGA committee and he thanked everyone at FEDAGA for the engraved glass and bottle of wine.

5. Secretary's Report

Another MSc student , Sophie Forbes from Edinburgh University , asked to be allowed to carry out research studying the effect of noise pollution on invertebrates on allotment sites near main roads that reflect a noise pollution gradient, namely West Mains, Lady Road, Bridgend Farm, Redhall (now discounted) and Ferry Road. She carried out some research at Lady Road and will present her work.

Earlier this year FEDAGA was contacted to see if someone could provide rhubarb. The enquirer and her partner were wanting to make rhubarb rum following a family recipe to serve at their wedding in the summer. Liz kindly supplied them with a quantity.

Edible Edinburgh are organising a workshop called Building a Sustainable City at 6pm, Rm.G21 Paterson's Land ,Holyrood Road on Monday 18 June.

An enquiry was passed onto Stuart from an allotment holder at Deans Meadow asking for advice/support in his attempt to be allowed two greenhouses on his plot.

An enquiry was received from a lady regarding a private plot 15 feet by 25 feet at her mother's house which was being made available to a keen gardener in the Stenhouse area. This enquiry was passed on to Edinburgh Garden Partners.

Some mistakes had been made in the taking of the previous Minutes and several amendments were requested.

Site report received from Alan Wilson at Stenhouse (included in site reports).

6. Treasurer's Report: - There is currently £17,444.12 in the bank account. Proposal (**Action Point**) – to pay Stenhouse the monies due to them based on the number of plots which are on their site and recover the cost from the Council. There is currently a shortfall due to the lower number of plots which appears to have been used by the Council to make the calculation. The number of plots at Stenhouse increased from 36 to 70 three years ago. There is a tool sharpening event at Duddingston Field on 16 June and booking is necessary(**DR**).

7. Planning

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

8. Trading

No report

9. Annual Show report

John is to send a doodle poll to help organise the best date for the next Allotment Show planning meeting (**JG**)

10. AOCB – none

11. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 10 July

Presentation:

A very interesting talk entitled Feeding the City, Understanding Allotments – Growing for Local Food Security by Jill Edmondson from the University of Sheffield followed the meeting.

Jill's team are currently collecting data on 40 crop types and everyone with an allotment or growing space can enter their plot data into the My Harvest website – myharvest.org.uk.

The data needed is – i) area of the growing space used for a specific crop ; ii) weight of harvested crop; iii) enter data into MyHarvest website.

Since My Harvest launched in March 2017 over 800 growers have signed up to measure their harvests. They grow their own fruit and vegetables in 58% Allotments; 41% Gardens ; 1% Other spaces in 3000 growing spaces.