



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

***Management Committee Meeting
7.15pm on 10th May 2016 at Southside Community Centre***

Present: Committee: Peter Wright - Lady Road (**PW**) (President) : Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**) (Secretary) : Dave Roberts - Restalrig (**DR**) (Treasurer) : Stuart McKenzie - Inverleith (**SMcK**) : Neira McClure - Claremont Park (**NMcC**) : John McKinlay - Craigentenny (**JMcK**) : John Gray - Warriston (**JG**) : Gilbert Clark - Midmar (**GC**) : Rosy Naylor - West Mains (**RN**); Observers: Allison Hewitt - Warriston (**AH**) : Chris Hughes - Warriston (**CH**) : Diane Hughes - Warriston (**DH**) : Alice Bain - Warriston (**AB**) : Gordon Scobie - Dumbryden (**GS**).

1. Apologies: Maureen Edwards - Lady Road (**ME**).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the 12th April meeting were proposed by **NMcC** and seconded by **PW** with the following amendment: "Compost spread at Inverleith was not taken from the composting toilets, but from another source". It was **AGREED** that **JMcK** write the Minutes for this Meeting.

3. Matters Arising - Council Allotment Strategy: **PW** advised that there had been a further meeting on 26th April at which it was agreed the Site Association fees would be shown on a strap line [see Collection of Subscriptions, below]. Water harvesting on Council Sites was discussed and **DR** was delegated to investigate and report back. Council representatives advised that ground for a new site on the site of the former Lismore Primary School at Duddingston Row in the east of the city had become available. The site could accommodate up to 60 plots of varying sizes and might also provide an opportunity to trial some innovations in allotment management and use. The system for identifying "dirty plots" and termination procedures were the subject of a wide ranging discussions with a divergence of views between representatives of the Allotment Service and representatives of FEDAGA. It was suggested and agreed that both parties along with any interested members of this Committee and also any interested plot holders should

take a tour of some sites and this was arranged for the afternoon of 11th May.

Telferton Planning Application: **DR** reported that the Planning Application had been defeated although the builders may appeal to the Recorder (Scottish Government). Those involved were very optimistic that any such appeal would fail. **PW** encouraged Committee Members to write to their MPs and MSPs in support of the Council's decision.

Allotment Show: **SMcK** stated that Insurance for the show had been purchased. Posters advertising the show had been printed and would be displayed on site notice boards as soon as possible and in shops and libraries nearer the time. Posters were passed out to attendees to put up on their site notice boards. **SMcK** stated that he was still looking for prizes for the various class winners. **PW** said that in the past his site Lady Road had donated £10 towards prizes. **DR** wondered if it would be an idea to give rosettes to the winners as these could be displayed in sheds and perhaps encourage entries at possible future Shows. **AH** noted that she was aware of two people who maybe interested in having stalls at the Show and it was agreed that it would be good to seek further stall exhibitors. **ACTION - AH.** There was a discussion about extending the insurance to cover Open Days by affiliated sites. **DR** stated that from his discussions there would be a separate charge for each site. There was discussion as to if and at what level of cost FEDAGA might support the purchase of insurance by such sites. **PW** said he would investigate. **ACTION : PW.**

Collection of Subscriptions: **PW** confirmed that at the last Strategy Meeting it was agreed that the information explaining that part of the overall charge represented by the Association fee of £2.50 would be shown on a strap line. The Allotment Service would need to set up the administration to inform FEDAGA who had paid our fee.

SASA Heritage Potato Trials: **SMcK** advised that participating plot holders had received their 3 tubers. A visit to SASA's potato growing area had been arranged for 1st July. Plot holders would be shown potatoes where disease had been deliberately introduced to the crops, part of the potato crop inspectors' training programme.

Allotment Insurance: **DR** is continuing to investigate possibilities with BGI. **ACTION - DR.** Show insurance acquired [see Allotment Show, above].

4. Allotment Officer - There were no Reports from the Allotment Officer. **NMcC** had met with him to discuss site spending priorities and will circulate the spread sheet to site reps to confirm their requests. **JG** queried the note on the prospective repair to the gate and fence at Dumbryden. It was considered a matter of a simplification of the repair description. **GS** explained that the gate should be set in from the pavement by the length of a car to enable plot holders to access the site without parking on double yellow lines. **NMcC** confirmed the overall budget remained the same at £20,000.

5. Consideration of Reports - Secretary's Report: **EW** had circulated this prior to the meeting. Two Newsletters had been issued covering the usual wide range of interesting topics including the upcoming Allotment Show and Urban Butterfly and Toolshed Projects. Plot holders can sign up to receive the Newsletter on the FEDAGA website. **JMcK** would like confirmation of any site that runs a website. **EW** had received a number of enquiries about "registering" with FEDAGA from new plot holders and applicants going on the waiting list.

Treasurers Report: **DR** had circulated this prior to the meeting. He stated that the Bank of Scotland had not yet processed the updated signatories. The current account stands at £6010.37 to which shop proceeds of £224 remains to be added. Allotment Show expenses including insurance have been paid. Dumbryden and Hutchison have cashed their cheques. The only outstanding issue is the payment of subscriptions by the Council. These were collected in January, are overdue, and will be chased up.
ACTION - DR.

Trading: **SMcK** stated that there had been orders to Kings Seeds worth approximately £4000 (unconfirmed) and it was decided once again to pass FEDAGA'S 10% back to sites. **SMcK** also stated, following the problems with the supply of requested potato varieties, that Kings could supply seed potatoes and if they received the order by November they would guarantee the varieties.

Site Reports: **PW** stated that Lady Road were holding an action day on 29th May to repair a fence. They were paying for material from site funds. **AH** noted that Warriston has a new website.
NMcC advised that Claremont Park had fence repair work done.
GC said that plot holders were carrying out voluntary work at Midmar.

RN advised that Weat Mains will hold an Open Day on 7th of August (see previous note under Allotment Show on the paying for insurance to cover the event).

JMcK advised that at Craigentenny the roof of the communal shed had been refelted.

SMcK regretfully advised that a recent survey at Inverleith had shown that 35 sheds were hosting rabbits including the FEDAGA Shop. It was **AGREED** to pay for wire netting to rabbit-proof the Shop. It was noted that the site AGM would be held on Monday 16th May and that parking at the site was now costing £1.80 an hour.

SAGS Report: PW again reminded the meeting that FEDAGA no longer have a representative on the committee.

6. Any Other Business: JMcK noted that the draft Strategy document only shows rents for the coming year 2017 and nothing for rents for the rest of the period covered by the document. He suggested that going forward rents should be tied to one of the cost of living indices and this was **AGREED**. There was a general discussion about the Self Management of allotments with new allotments sites perhaps more fertile ground for its introduction.

7. Date of Next Meeting: 14th June 2016.