



THE FEDERATION OF
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT
ALLOTMENTS AND
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

Minutes of FEDAGA Management Committee Meeting 7pm Tuesday 14 December 2021 - Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Present Stuart McKenzie (SMcK)(Inverleith)(President); Liz Grace (EG) (Midmar)(Secretary); Ernie Watt (EW)(Cambridge Ave)(Newsletter); Dave Roberts (DR)Treasurer)(Craigentiny/Telferton); Alison Hewitt (AH) (Warriston)(Planning); Paul Kerr (PK)(Redhall)(Minutes);Alice Bain(AB)(Warriston);Jan Bradbury(JB)(Saughton Mains);Neiria McClure(NMcC)(Claremont); John Nisbet(JN)(Telferton;Craigentiny); Stuart Swarbrick (SS)(Ferry Road); Nils tomes(NT)(West Mains);Alan Gordon(AG)(West Mains); Alex Taylor(AT)(Portobello East Jn.); Heather MacPherson(HMacP) (Northfield); Margaret Williamson(MW);Sue Soutar(SS)(Baronscourt); Pamela Chalmers

1. Apologies John Grace (JG)(Midmar); Lorna Henderson(LH)(Carricknowe);

2. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting Proposed – SMcK(Cambridge Ave); Seconded – AH(Warriston)

3. Matters Arising/Action Points from previous meeting

Action point - SMcK has spoken with IW regarding the cost of billing ploholders for annual allotment fees- See President's report

4. Site Reports

Baronscourt (SS)

Grant money was provided for buying tool trollies however fewer trolleys were purchased than originally intended so a small amount of money is left -£53.44. DR advised that the site could keep the money as long as it was spent on equipment for the site.

Inverleith (SMcK)

We had a problem with one of the gate padlocks, it became very stiff and many complained it was difficult to close. I bought some graphite to lubricate it with and was amazed at the difference. It really sorted the problem out very easily. I'd recommend sites buy some for their locks (£5 on Amazon).

Ian has completed the barrier installation along a particularly steep part of the site. Results look good and should help site safety. Trying to get other safety issues fixed using our newsletter.

Ferry Road (SS)

- Our last site work day went well - we managed to get the Community Chalet roof refelted, and dug out a literal pile of compost from the site compost heaps. Starting to plan the next two days which will - fingers crossed - be in January.
- We're going to sign up to the Keep Scotland Beautiful "It's your neighbourhood" again next year. The discounted insurance was a weight off knowing the volunteers and equipment were covered, and there was a lot of good feeling about the feedback we got from the assessor.
- Having participated in "It's your neighbourhood" this year, we were eligible to apply to a couple of grant funding schemes that the RHS has set up. We've applied to one- the Community Environment Fund, hoping for funds to build improved compost heaps, and we'll hear back by the end of January. We're up against all

the Britain in Bloom and other It's your neighbourhood groups, so not holding a lot of hope - but don't ask, don't get.

- We had a productive meeting with Ian Woolard, checking with him about our plans for the new compost heaps, the hand wash for the toilet, etc. Jokingly he asked when we would be installing a shower. He was pulling my leg, but he got me thinking and I ended up down an internet rabbit hole looking up off grid showers and there are systems you can get that plug into a gas bottle to heat the water. Now, we've no plans to install a shower, but the principles that would make that work, would also apply to a handwash system. Perhaps for the future 😊 https://www.joolca.co.uk/products/hottap-outing-kit?gc_id=424031528&h_ad_id=&msclkid=ce985fc12e6211a879e63e769ce6a9a2
- The Edinburgh Tool Library is running their volunteer assembly again, and they're looking for community projects to submit their ideas by Thursday 13th January 2022. They do these several times through the year, full details at this link: <https://edinburghtoollibrary.org.uk/volunteer-assembly/>

West Mains (NT/AG) Phil Denning takes on the role of West Mains Allotment Association secretary in January 2022, when Dr Jan Urquhart stands down.

The planning application for the ground adjacent to West Mains allotments (21/03813/FUL) has been amended and this revision went to public consultation in November 2021. A decision on the application has not yet been made by the Council. West Mains was concerned that the layout of the new development would block groundwater drainage.

West Mains is grateful to be getting a shredder with Council funding, to help clear brushwood and non-compostable biowaste from across the site.

West Mains organised a group order of several tonnes of compost, aiming to save delivery costs for plottolders.

There have been some thefts, vandalism and shed break-ins on the site in recent weeks, targeting produce and equipment.

Northfield (HMacP)

After 8 years, Northfield allotment has water!!!! And it is running fast. We have filled up our ibcs to cover the Winter and early spring, and ready for the tap to be turned off. We are all very excited about next year. Thanks to FEDAGA for all it's amazing support. We have planted the fruit trees provided from the 10k pot.

Craigentiny/Telferton (JN)

We have held our AGM in a local church not a great attendance members still concerned about meeting inside.

New committee elected with 3 new members main change to our constitution is committee members can only stand for maximum of 5 years in a bid to encourage new committee members. Also held our winter warmer event which was well attended and had a lovely evening drinking homemade soup mulled wine, cider and home baking

Claremont (NMacC)

Only one piece of sad news. One of our plottolders died last week. His name was Charlie Lynch and he was 94 years old. He was a much loved and admired member of our community and he will be missed by many.

Otherwise the allotment is going into winter slumbers.

5. President's Report (SMCK)

A delegation from Lauriston Farm visited Inverleith Allotments last week. They were particularly interested in the communal composting arrangements. composting at the site.

I spoke with Ian Woolard and asked him about the cost of billing plottolders and received a good summary of his current projects.

Current work in progress-

- Still have the new 30K Warriston fence ordered for starting late January.
- The two new chippers ordered for delivery in January for Warriston and West Mains
- Fencing works at Inverleith, Midmar have been done but maybe some more to do.
- Trying to get some pathway works completed at three sites water harvesting just about organised
- Meeting at Leith Links and discussion with developers regarding the new extension to the site which is taking shape.
- Preparations for issuing rent invoices almost complete.

There was discussion about the failure to inform site reps of new tenants being introduced to the site and other occasional mix-ups, such as tenants not being clear about which half plot they were assigned. **SMcK Agreed** to raise this at the next Strategy meeting with a view to someone from the site being present when new tenants were welcomed, in line with arrangements. **ACTION – SMcK**

Finally, the latest news is that £50K has been provided to the allotment Officer to repair walls starting with Redhall. MW enquired if we should consider commissioning research on allotment site waiting lists in Scotland to see if anything could be done to improve this. SMcK suggested he and MW attend the next Zoom SAGS meeting.

6. Secretary's report (EG) EG told of two enquiries into abandoned allotment sites at Balgreen and Joppa. With regard to the former also known as Pansy Walk, a high level decision on whether the ground is suitable for housing will be taken soon. The small site by the railway line at Joppa appears to have been intended for housing, but permission has been refused. The allotment Officer has been alerted and will look into it.

The pdf of the new Allotment Rules and Regulations was sent to Ernie and he has posted the document on the Website.

Other discussions:-

EG – has had several posts from sites regarding 'composting' toilet facilities still in use. On several sites the toilets are out of use - Bridgend; Craigentiny; Clairmont. At Lethem Park the site was designed to cater for local people. At Mortonhall Golf Club they have installed a luxury timber lined Natsoil toilet. SMcK commented that composting toilets where the liquid is separated from the solid and fed to a soakaway greatly reduce the need for emptying and other maintenance. EG – commented that an in depth discussion should take place to find out what sites wanted. JG and EG are collating these comments and will present a report with recommendations at the meeting in February.

AG- five sites have shown an interest in using a travelling shredder, which would visit each site over the course of a day at a cost of approximately £300-400. See his report below. EW said he would put an item in the next Newsletter.

SMcK enquired about the possibility of sites taking their green waste to a site which already has a shredder and processing it there. A discussion then followed about the various options available e.g transporting an existing shredder to another site. Insurance is a factor in these situations.

MW – Gorgie City Farm have mulch available for collection – enquiries should be made directly to the farm.

There's a Food Event planned for 25th February by Edible Edinburgh, see their flyer attached. I think it might be a good idea if FEDAGA took a stand there so people can ask about allotment provision in the city. A poor time of year to have a display of impressive locally grown veg but I wonder if a display of some of Ernie's photos would look good on some display boards. Also thinking about some leek and tattie soup people could sample - lots better than supermarket leeks...

If we think it's a good idea could the flyer go out with the agenda for the next meeting please so we can drum up interest and ideas? I've also lots of SAGS publications we could give away!

Alison Hewitt added- "The order arrives at the end of January, so the shop at Inverleith could be opened 6th, 13th and 20th for ploholders. Any surplus could be sold on 25th at Granton (Food Fair). The timings work well, assuming the goods store well and there are not too many heavy frosts.

Report on possible use of roving shredding service (AG)

So far there are 6 folks interested. This is made up of those individuals with shreddings, including three who have kindly agreed to co-ordinate locally at their sites. It does not include a person at West Mains where we are likely to get a shredder from that nice chap Ian Woolard. I'd prefer if there were a few more interested to make it financially reasonable as Ian said he would pay for it.

7. Treasurer's Report (DR) DR provided a report and said the balance is currently £16,756.17 in the bank account. He said that applications to the Gilbert Clark Foundation were coming in with the closing date imminent. Bids received so far are from Claremont Park, Craigentenny, Craigentenny/Telferton, Ferry Road, Midmar, Saughton Mains and Warriston. It was **AGREED** that the unspent money from last year's Baronscourt award will be carried over as they were not responsible for the delay that has taken place and that Lethem Park's unfulfilled bid for funding for communal composting facilities be removed as the plan there looks like changing. The sub-committee will scrutinise the applications once all are received and will make recommendations to the next meeting. Details of the Small Grants scheme awards for this year (Gilbert Clark Foundation awards) can be found in Appendix 1.

ACTION DR, JB and EW.

8. Maintenance (NMacC) NMacC agreed that the topics covered by SMcK were what the Allotment Officer (IW) was progressing. Hope to have an updated spreadsheet detailing the situation ready for the next meeting .

ACTION NMacC

9. Planning (AH) No new applications of relevance that affect allotment sites. St Crispin's development (West Mains) is awaiting assessment. There does not appear to be a re-submission for the Willowbrae Road (Northfield) development which was rejected earlier this year. The situation at Leith Links is less clear with late changes of mind being brought forward.

10. Annual Allotment Show (JG) No news to report at this time. It was noted that the Dundee Show organisers have not yet decided if there will be a show next year.

11. Trading (AH) The order is expected to arrive at the end of January, so the shop at Inverleith could be opened 6th, 13th and 20th for ploholders. SMcK said that bags for onions have been purchased and are being colour coded to enable easy identification and sorting for distribution to sites.

12. Food Growing Strategy (MW)

MW reported back from a recent meeting where there were warm words of appreciation for the contribution made by our President ,SMcK. There was a presentation from Pam Whittle , of the RCHS (Caley) spoke of training courses and their work at Saughton Park and the Demonstration Allotment at Bridgend. There was a discussion on how to take forward useful workshops and courses for ploholders. A mapping exercise is being undertaken to identify suitable sites for good food growing and the problems surrounding data use in getting a newsletter out. To people on the allotment waiting list to let them know of what they could do in the meantime such as work on communal gardens or back court gardening schemes. Work is being done on identifying food markets and food hubs to create a sustainable food supply network. Edible Estates are working with an RHS horticulture development Officer to help young people considering employment in the food sector. In conclusion ,NT suggested it would d be good to allow existing ploholders onto any training courses that may arise , as well as new people.

13. AOCB SMcK said a useful meeting had been held with Glasgow Allotment s Forum (GAF) regarding our respective priorities. A follow up meeting is planned for the New Year.

14. Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 8 February 2021 (Please note-there will be a short meeting on 11th January to discuss the delivery and distribution of the potato/onion/shallot orders)

Please note-

All further meetings in person are cancelled until further notice due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Future meetings will be held by internet conferencing using Zoom.

Appendix 1 Small Grant Scheme- Gilbert Clark Foundation Awards

Site Name	brief description	AMOUNT REQUIRED	CONTRIBUTION	Fedaga	AGREED (est)	paid	receipt
Baronscourt	Compost bins, trolleys,	448.33£	30.00£	133.44£	133.44£	Y	
Ferry Road	Blower/shredder 2 x wheelbarrows	326.00£	180.50£	135.50£	135.50£	y	y
Findlay Avenue	Trolleys x2	59.87	10.00£	49.87£	59.87£	y	y
Inverleith	2 x hire of shredder autumn/spring		240.00£		120.00£		120.00£
Lady Road	Trolleys x2	120.00£	60.00£	60.00£	60.00£	y	y
Northfield drive	Create communal area	494.88£	In Kind	185.94£	185.94£	y	y
Portobello East Jcn	Paths (strimmer purchased)	462.00£	in kind	137.71£	137.31£	y	y
Red Hall	2 x humane Rat traps		338.00£		-£		338.00£
Restalrig	Purchase of trolley	120.00£	60.00£	60.00£	120.00£	y	y
Saughton Mains	Composting bins	600.00£	300.00£	337.29£	337.29£	y	y

	(Material s)						
Saughton Mains (2)	Tools		200.00£		100.00£		100.00£
Stenhou se	Create pond/wil dlife area and seating	249.45£	100.00£	96.97£	96.97£	y	y
Victoria Park	Water butts x 2 and installati on	394.60£	30.00£	135.00£	135.00£	y	y
Lethem park	composting bins			200.00£		N	
Total		4,053.13£	990.50£		1,889.72£		1,401.32£