

SAUGHTON MAINS ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

SMAA Annual General Meeting, Sunday 17th September 2017, 3pm

Present: J Bradbury, A Brown, P Brown, R Clark, B Collie, Jean Gifford, Y. Dawe, M. Dawe, G Evans, N Gray, G Keith, A Kretsinger, J McCleary, B McGuirk, A. McStay, A Mitchell, P. Shaw, D. Stevenson, M Stewart, J Stewart, Mary Simpson (secretary), George Sutherland (treasurer), Rosina Weightman (Chairman), J Wilson, .

Apologies: John Waterlow, Peter Moir, Tony Stanton, Mr & Mrs Barker, Brenda Rowan, Peter Ramsay.

Chairpersons Report

Rosina welcomed everyone for making the meeting.

- **Thanks** once again to Peter Ramsay for the lovely repair to the noticeboard on the front gate. This is being well used for notices of lost and found as well as official notices. Please keep notices to postcard size. Some of the other noticeboards on site need refurbished and several volunteers have agreed to look at this. Thanks also to Peter Shaw who has contributed a small portable easel which we hope to begin using to notify which committee members are on site if people want to pass on information or access the stores within the metal container. Thanks as always to the tireless work of the committee and associates who do so much to keep the site tidy and in good repair.
- **Keeping the site tidy.** Use the bins correctly. Please remember you are responsible for the paths around your plot, as well as your plot. 75% of the plot should be cultivated.
- **Tree cutting.** Many of the tree's from the Water of Leith path which were overhanging the site have been cut back. There was very little response from ploholders on getting some of the tree's on site cutback, when the committee asked for suggestions. A request is with Ian Woolard that larger non food producing and self-seeding tree's will be cut back in the coming months within the site.
- **Communication with plot holders.** Mary Simpson now has @ 90 email addresses of plot holders and this is by far the easiest way to get information out. The SMAA facebook page is now administered by Rosina Weightman and Jean Carletta and the shared workload means more varied and interesting information is posted. The noticeboards continue to show all the important notices but of course rely on people taking the time to look at them!
- This year saw a change in the notices sent out by the council to **collect rents and fees** for FEDAGA and the local allotment associations. For the first time the rent and fee were charged separately. The great fear that this might result in people not paying their site fee did not come to pass. There were very few defaulters from the voluntary contribution.

- **Report on FEDAGA business:** Mary Simpson and Rosina Weightman continue to represent SMAA at FEDAGA meetings. The Garden Show was run again this year very successfully. Mary and Donald were our only competitors in the show from SMAA and Donald won a prize. Well done Donald!! It was a very pleasant afternoon and I would hope more people will consider entering next year. Ian Woolard will begin to attend occasional FEDAGA meetings and it is hoped this will help communication. FEDAGA have noted a steady increase in the funds they hold and have agreed to discharge a greater share of this to local sites.
- The FEDAGA is on 24/10/2017 and all are welcome - see website for details.
- Many people may already know that sadly our **long term treasurer George Sutherland is giving up his plot at the end of the year.** As well as working steadily at keeping financial good order in SMAA, George has also been an encyclopaedic and approachable reference on all things gardening related. **George you will be greatly missed. Thank you for all your hard work over the years.**

Treasurers Report

George Sutherland shared copies of the profit and loss account for 2016-2017 and also for comparison the accounts from last year.

2016-2017	Total Income	£2,777.22
	Total expenditure	£2,093.88
	Profit	£683.34

Total assets held by SMAA stand at £4,742.30

Peter Moir has done an audit on the accounts and affirmed their accuracy. George will need to be replaced in Jan 2018 and Jean Carletta has offered to take up the post but will need to confirm her eligibility with Ian Woolard. Peter Shaw has also offered that if Jean is for any reason unable to be elected he will stand.

3. Election of the Committee

All existing members agreed to stand for re-election. They were proposed and seconded en bloc. Two new members Yvonne Dawe and Jan Bradbury were also welcomed on to the committee.

4. Suggestions and plans for the coming year.

Since the finances of FEDAGA and the SMAA are healthy it was agreed there is scope for some expenditure on the site.

- As in previous years the funding of a **skip** to encourage tidying up the site was discussed. The problem of policing it so that domestic rubbish was not dumped could be overcome if it was hired over a couple of days and ploholders took shifts in policing it.
- The possibility of a bulk order of **Zoo Poo** being located in our third bin was enthusiastically received. If it was free ploholders could freely use it. If we had to pay, it should be charged per barrow load. Mary undertook to contact the Zoo and find out what the situation was re delivery and charges.
- George indicated bulk orders of **mushroom compost** were delivered by one firm, but only to allotments on the main driveway. Otherwise the ploholder had to barrow it to their plot themselves.
- Peter indicated he was willing to repair 5 panels in **the fencing**.
- **The container and gate needed painting**. Committee members were willing to help, but Ian Woolard had to buy the paint through his accounts. Reflective paint would be useful to keep the temperature down.
- Purchase of **paint for the toilets**, Danish oil for the doors, and **toilet roll holders** was also approved.
- Peter asked for the purchase of decent **folding tables** for the chalet. The present ones were useless when processing the potato and onion orders as their legs kept falling off. This was approved.
- Rosina suggested that the **inside of the Chalet** could be spruced up a bit.
- Mary asked if **50p plastic folders** for the new ploholders' welcome pack could be funded. This was approved.

5. Election of representatives to FEDAGA

Mary, Rosina and Peter were confirmed as representatives on the committee for the coming year. They could arrange it so that at least one of them was there to represent SMAA at any one meeting.

Delegates to the AGM ON 24th October : Mary, Rosina. George, Donald

6. AOCB

Rosina reminded ploholders that Peter was progressing on the **installation of his beehives**. Several sites in town already had these and no problems had been reported. We also benefited from hives on the prison roof. There were no objections provided the safety measures he promised were implemented.

An **apple press** could be obtained through FEDAGA. Since there was a glut of apples several plotheholders expressed an interest and Rosina undertook to contact FEDAGA and organise a pressing session.

MS/RW 23 Sept 2017