

SAUGHTON MAINS ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
SMAA Committee Meeting, Sunday 4th March 2018, 3pm

Present: Jan Bradbury, Yvonne Dawe, Jean Carletta, Neil Gray, Alan McStay, Peter Shaw, Mary Simpson
Brian McGurk, Rosina Weightman.

Apologies: ..

John McCleary; Peter Moir.

1. Matters Arising:

Treasurers Report

Jean gave an update on banking procedures. The appropriate mandates had been seen to. The sales book from the container had gone missing, although Peter M might have taken it for auditing purposes. Reassuringly there was £20 more in the cash box than was recorded.

It was agreed that there should be a float of £20 in the container, and that a proper receipt book with carbon paper and tear off slip should be purchased and used for the dry goods sales.

Any purchases over £25 have to be checked by Jean.

The possibility of a trailer for **unbagged zoo-poo** was discussed. The zoo staff had reassured Mary that the poo was dry and not unpleasant or messy to transport and manage. Rosina proposed she would visit the zoo and get more information; Yvonne will investigate costings and availability of a flat bed trailer and Peter will investigate a possible dumper truck.

Folding Tables

Peter was authorised to go ahead with ordering the **appropriate folding tables at a cost of £2-£300 total maximum.**

2 Communications

- a) Mary raised the possibility of all committee members taking responsibility for securing the correct names of ploholders across the site and adding to **the current mailing list**. This had last been done several years ago and much was needing updating. The blocks of plots allocated to committee members had been variable in size and related to the individuals involved at the time. It was agreed this should be re-done and she undertook to redraw the blocks to even up the numbers and locate them near the plots of the members wherever possible. Jean will liaise on managing the mailing list.
- b) **The Plotholdes Guide** will be sent round to some new ploholders for comment if some with mail addresses can be found. The sheet on fertilisers will have the heading amended to be presented as a Growing Guide, and the current prices for container dry goods will be on an attached sheet so it can be amended as required.
- c) **Establishing a website** for notices, minutes etc. Jean and Rosina have been progressing this. The Bridgend site seemed a good model, but we did not want to incur undue costs. They will investigate setting up a mail address for communications with the committee.

3. Maintenance

The major **painting job of the gates** and the container have been held up because Ian Woolard has not delivered the paint. **Mary will chase him.** Donald had already painted the toilets.

Clear up of the site: after much discussion it was agreed **that a skip should be hired** for the weekend of 13th-15th April, and the Sunday would be a committee meeting day. A poster will be circulated emphasising it is only for site rubbish, - no weeds and no domestic rubbish.

Noticeboards: The board on the far car park needs attention. Rosina will source some cork or suitable material and Peter will also look at the repairs needed.

Mary wanted to **store past paperwork** in folders on shelves. Peter undertook to clear the shelving in the corner of the chalet.

Bees: the objection from a neighbouring plot holder had prevented Peter's bee keeping plans going

forward. He had now moved his plot, and was considering alternative sites for the location of hives where ploholders were happy about his arrangements and safety procedures. Possible uses of the site he had cleared were discussed. Planting an orchard of fruit and/or nut trees seemed a good idea. Peter and Rosina will look into the possibilities for this.

4. **Keys:** It was established that 5 people had container keys: Rosina, Peter Shaw, Alan, John McCleary and Jean who had retrieved one from George. It would be possible to put a key safe in the chalet for the container key. Jean will have three extra chalet keys cut so every committee member has one.
5. **Onions and Potato Orders:** A vote of thanks was passed for Anna Kretsinger's assistance in getting the orders bagged and out. The sacks of potato and onions were delivered in large bags and had to be weighed out and labelled. This happened in February, but a notice had not gone round for the committee members to come and help for a couple of hours. This will be organised next year.
6. **AOCB:** Tony Stanton's wife had been in touch and reported he was making good progress. A number of volunteers came forward to dig over his plot before he was fit enough to come back and start the new season.
7. **Date of Next Meeting:** It was difficult to find a date which was suitable for everyone. It was agreed that the meeting should take place over the weekend of the skip hire.

SUNDAY 15th APRIL at 3.00

Peter Shaw and Jan Bradbury gave apologies.

REPORT from FEDAGA MEETING 13th March

Ian Woolard was in attendance. He reported that there would be a FEDAGA /Council strategy meeting in late April/ early June.

Since frost is still forecast and the ground is very cold, he has delayed the turning on of the water till early April.

Of 1504 plot holders, 30-40 still had not paid their rents.

72 had not paid the voluntary site fees, including an addition of 20 this year.

There was a 6% turnover of plot holders in the past year, 15 of which were at Saughton.

The trade waste was patchy in being successful. He had spent rather over budget (£9k rather than £6k) and could not contemplate adding a second bin at Saughton

He confirmed the **tree cutting** had still to be completed at Saughton, and that he would act to get us our **missing paint**.

He was concerned at the use of inappropriate keys cut for the site locks.

In response to concerns from other sites re lack of toilet facilities he said these were hugely expensive and required expert management. He could commit no funds to putting in toilets anywhere. *(Clearly we are lucky at Saughton to have Alan and Donald)*

MS/ 31/03/17