

**SAUGHTON MAINS ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**SMAA Committee Meeting, Sunday 15 April 2018, 3.00pm**

**Present**

Rosina Weightman (Chairman), Jean Carletta (treasurer), Mary Simpson (secretary), Brian McGuirk, Alan McStay, Peter Shaw, Peter Scott Moir, Yvonne Dawe

**In Attendance:** Lynn Grattage, Sue Miles.

**1. Matters Arising**

**a) Zoo Poo:** Rosina had visited the zoo and ascertained that the product was pretty wet, despite previous reassurances, but it was wholly vegetarian. She had to re visit the information from the haulage hire firm to confirm the clearance requirements for their truck, costing £80 for a 20 ton truck. After much discussion on the pros and cons of charging, it was decided that a load should be organised for one of the leaf bays, and folk should be invited to pay £1 for three barrow loads, through an honesty box or by giving it to a committee member. The logistics had yet to be worked out. An evaluation of it would then be raised at the General meeting.

**b) Folding Tables Progress:** Peter had sourced suitable tables at COSTCO at £80 each and would proceed to buy two.

**d) Skip Hire:** The skip had turned out to be considerably smaller than expected, so had been filled pretty quickly. Alan had assisted by removing a lot of non painted wood that could easily be burned elsewhere. Co-operation had been good, and after the AGM had been consulted another could probably be ordered for the autumn.

**2. Treasurer's report**

Jean was still reviewing past accounts to get a handle on what were our typical annual incomes and outgoings, and typical spend and profit on the trading. The income from the bulk sales, dry goods and potatoes/onions seemed considerably down this year, and Peter S will go over the spreadsheet with her. There were IOUs for £16 for dry goods that needed to be called in. A receipt book has been installed in the container to keep track of sales.

Mary S advised that at the last FEDAGA meeting they had confirmed the return of £2 (usually £1) per plot holder to the sites from the £2.50 voluntary fee paid with the rent. FEDAGA has suggested to Ian Woolard that they can be passed numbers of non-payers on each site without violating data protection legislation, for the purposes of assessing whether ploholders are happy with their associations.

A second source of funding from FEDAGA will be a fee pro-rata on the spend from plot holders on the online King's seed scheme. In total SMAA could expect about £350 to 400 in total in this financial year. Jean will contact the treasurer of FEDAGA and give him our bank account details for transfer of the money when it becomes available.

The skip hire and the Zoo poo would be our major spends this year, leaving healthy finances,

however, given the increasing constraints on Ian Woolard's budgets, it would be wise to keep healthy reserves in case serious spending requirements came down the line in the future when we could not depend on Council funding – e.g. for water repairs, security or rubbish disposal, (on which Ian W's budget was already considerably overspent)

### 3. Communications

**The website** was up and running and Jean was thanked for the splendid job. Not much was yet on it, but it was anticipated to become more popular as folk got to know of it. The General Meeting would be asked for feedback and suggestions.

**The Mailing List:** Jean had also been busy revising Mary's mailing list and now had confirmation of 103 email addresses. She tabled a map showing gaps, and it was agreed that committee members should make efforts to check on interest in areas where no one was receiving information.

**The Notice Boards:** Rosina had purchased suitable board for the notice board in the small car park and it was now useable.

### 4. Maintenance

Alan reported that nothing major was outstanding, but we need to ask Ian Woolard again about paint for the gates, as it has not arrived.

### 5. FEDAGA report

Mary had attended the previous meeting and found it congenial and informative. She urged committee members to look at the FEDAGA Newsletter where a number of events were advertised. We should consider making a link from our website to theirs, or extracting notices for our plot holders. This will be looked at. As Mary will not be able to manage the next meeting, Yvonne will attend to represent SMAA. Mary will pass her minutes and details.

### 6. AOCB

**Site Keys:** Mary reported that she had got forms from Ian for getting appropriate keys cut. These will be placed in a box in the chalet and can be issued by any committee member.

**Container Sales:** A way of signaling the opening of the container should be found. This could be discussed at the GM.

**Welcoming Event Food Festival:** 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> June, 12-4pm. There was concern re insurance, safety and escorting of the visitors, given we do not have public liability insurance, and the public roaming around paths could prove hazardous and intrusive. Rosina will contact Ian Woolard as the Council are the landlords, and also FEDAGA as they have experience of such public events. We would like to contribute positively to the day, and could offer the Chalet as a meeting point, or for shelter in the event of rain.

### 7. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be the general meeting and the date was set as below.

Yvonne's apologies were noted.

**General Meeting: Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 3.00.**