

SAUGHTON MAINS ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
SMAA General Meeting, Sundayth May 2018, 3pm

Present: Peter Brown, Mararet Brown, Agnes Cunningham, G Evans, C Finlay, Jean Gifford (treasurer), G Keith, W Lord, John McCleary, Brian McGurk, Alan McStay, S Miles, Peter Moir, B O'Dochartaigh, R Pavey, C Puppi, Donald Stevenson, Mary Simpson (secretary), Rosina Weightman, (Chairman), I Wood

Apologies: Neil Gray, Y Dawes, J Bradbury, J Waterlow, A Kretzinger, J McMillan, A Auchterlonie.

In Attendance: Karen Henry; Catriona Drummond.

Chairman's Report

Rosina welcomed everyone for making it to the meeting, and **welcomed two guests, Karen and Catriona** from Hutchinson Loan who wanted to join us for information and tips.

1. Communications:

The Facebook page was up and running and a website had been set up by Jean Gifford. Volunteers to manage the postings were welcome. The Plotolders Guide and minutes etc will be posted up electronically as well as on the three noticeboards.

Half of the plotolders were now contactable by email and those who had been approached had welcomed the mailings that went out. It was agreed some print copies of the Plotolders Guide should be made for those who did not use electronic communications. Ian Woolard had been asked to give it to new plotolders.

It would be nice to have more **communal events**, especially to draw in new plotolders.

A swap shop was suggested as some things had been taken out of the skip as, although they were surplus to someone's requirements, if they were in good shape they could be of use to someone else. Things could be put at the side of the bin and if not removed after a couple of weeks could be binned.

A formal exchange point could be designated and monitored for 6 months.

2. Site Maintenance and Neglected plots

Alan and Donald continued to work hard on keeping the site well maintained, and Gill kept the toilets in good order. Peter Shaw had been planting fruit trees and prickly bushes around the fencing, although someone had complained that they obstructed their car.

Although Ian Woolard regularly visited the site and **noted neglected plots**, people suffering weeds from these felt he did not move fast enough.

The paint for the gate had still be be delivered despite promises from Ian, but **the tree cutting** had been completed.

The suggestion of **a community orchard** was welcomed in the area of the former pylon. There was already a planting of communal trees by the toilets. Peter Shaw was exploring the possibility of securing an unwanted **commercial poly tunnel** where people could 'rent' space for seedlings. Where the ground was unsuitable for growing, raised beds could also be considered.

Jean suggested **these ideas should be put on the Facebook** site for discussions before the AGM in September.

3. Treasurer's Report

Jean was still working on the financial records to see how best to work the systems and strategies for the future. There were three categories of financial transactions:

1. Regular outgoings e.g. on toilet rolls.
2. Services to the site e.g. hire of a skip
3. Money flowing out then back from e.g. trading and zoo poo sales.

Income also accrued from the site fees re-routed from FEDAGA and from the sales of Kings seeds – also re routed via FEDAGA.

We had in the recent past used funds for maintenance items for Alan and Donald; solar panels for the chalet, and for notice boards. Given that the Council were cutting back on maintenance and such services as rubbish collection it seemed necessary to keep a certain amount of funds in reserve against the day when repairs to necessary services such as the water system or the gate were needed and would be unlikely to be funded by the Council.

4. AOCB

The Zoo Poo delivery had gone extremely well although the week day access had not suited everyone. It was agreed this should be repeated in the autumn with a Friday afternoon delivery which would allow folk to access on Sat if possible. The income had almost covered outgoings and Rosina thanked the volunteers who had assisted with the event.

The Welcoming Project: Kiara told us about the Welcoming Project on plot 160, which was concerned with welcoming immigrants through a food growing project. On 16th - 17th June as part of the Power of Food Festival the plot would be open to visitors.

FEDAGA: Mary reminded the meeting that the annual Allotment Show would be in September, and that the FEDAGA committee were running a bus to the Dundee Flower Show. Anyone interested should consult the Newsletter on the FEDAGA website

Container Opening Times: Plottolders still find it difficult to find someone to open the container for sales.

Mary suggested any keyholder on the site should put up a sign indicating one hour when they would have the container open. An alternative was suggested that the keyholder should put their mobile no on the sign and let people phone them. A regular opening hour before or after our meetings was also suggested.

Again this was left unresolved.

Alan and Donald again put out a plea that the site and the rubbish areas should be kept TIDY!

7. Date of next meeting: the next committee meeting will be on 15th July at 3.00.

MS/ 20/5/18