

SAUGHTON MAINS ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING 17 FEBRUARY 2019

Present Jean Carletta (Treasurer and chair for this meeting),
Jan Bradbury (Secretary), Peter Shaw, Peter Moir
Jenny Wilson (plotholder)

Apologies Rosina Weightmann, Yvonne Dawse, Mary Simpson,

1. Minutes of the Committee on 2 December 2018
Noted and approved

2. Accounts

JC reported that SMAA have about £5K in the bank. At the AGM, it was agreed that this gives the Association scope to look at doing things for the site.

It was agreed that a large skip should be hired to help people clearing plots at the beginning of the main growing season, date to be finalised, but a Friday-Saturday in March / April preferred. Rosina to be asked to book through her contacts. Rosina away in March so skip to be arranged in first 2 weeks of April. Jean to prepare poster for FB, with copies for the 2 noticeboards. Getting another load of Zoo Poo was considered but the committee agreed this better left until the Autumn

Agreed: Rosina be asked to book a large skip for a weekend in April.
Jean to prepare poster for FB and the noticeboards.

3. FEDAGA

JB went through Rosina's notes

- i. No particular maintenance jobs have been identified for submission to FEDAGA. (Latest FEDAGA newsletter says that list of maintenance items very light this year so maybe we should have another look !)
- ii. FEDAGA Plant and Flower Show will be on 14 September 2019
- iii. Peter Shaw confirmed that the Fire Brigade can access the site, they simply cut the chain !
- iv. On the online education podcast no-one present had specialist knowledge.

4. The Welcoming.

The Welcoming is a group set up to show refugee families what can be achieved on an allotment site (demonstration project) The charity had requested a second plot from Ian Woolard, but SMAA Committee considered that this group shouldn't have priority over other people on the waiting list. Instead of an established plot, the group were offered an untidy/ neglected area by the main gate which needed attention.

Peter Moir reported that the group came to see this area on 11 February.

Agreed: Rosina to ask Ian Woolard for an update.

5. State of Allotment Plots.

The Committee considered a recent comprehensive survey of the allotment plots which was agreed as a good starting point for discussion with Ian Woolard. Some members recommended caution in the Committee identifying plots because they felt it could lead to difficulties with people whose plots were identified. It was also important to recognise that people's individual circumstances change from time to time, making it difficult for them to tend to their plots as regularly as they might have liked. However, it was also recognised that some plots have been neglected and in a poor condition for years.

Agreed. The survey should be discussed with Ian Woolard the next time he goes round the site with Rosina, but that any decision on the future of plots should be left with Ian.

Particular thanks to Ronnie, Peter and Dez for removing mountains of rubbish from a very neglected site that has been an eyesore for years.

6. Dry Goods Container Store.

A number of containers have been collected. 5 dry goods (bonemeal, fish, blood and bone, rockdust, lime and growmore) to be weighed, packaged up and priced and placed in the metal container by the shed door. The amount of different products would be such that their cost would be round sums of money, eg 50p or £1 to make payment easier. Peter Shaw agreed to organise this in the first instance because the process needed to be coordinated with sorting out the potatoe and onion orders.

Agreed: Peter Shaw to organise the weighing up, bagging and pricing of the 5 dry goods products held in the metal container in the first instance. He would let other committee members know when he intended to do it and if he needed help.

7. Onion and Potatoe Orders.

Peter Shaw had expected that the goods would have arrived before the committee meeting, but he'd been recently informed that they would be delivered the following week, although he didn't know which day. He said he was available during the week and would make arrangements to sort out the orders, and ask for whatever help he felt he needed. Peter was thanked for all his hard work.

Agreed. That allotment holders would be informed on FB and with posters on the noticeboards when the orders had been sorted and when they could be collected.

8. AOB

i Scarecrow Competition Jenny Wilson said she like to get a scarecrow competition going on Saughton Mains, because it was fun, colourful and got people walking round the site and talking to people. She agreed to do a poster which could be put on FB and the noticeboards advertising the competition and saying that the scarecrows would be judged on 2 June 2019, the date of the Committee's General Meeting.

Agreed. That Jenny Wilson would organise a scarecrow competition this Spring, with entries judged on 2 June with details to agreed.

ii. Use of Allotment Hut. The hut is a good resource and could be used more, but it was used to store goods, keys etc so care needed. The hut could be used for meetings when it wasn't being used for bulk goods/ potatoe and onion orders etc provided a committee member was present and took responsibility for safeguarding items, turning off the lights and locking up. Further discussion regarded with other members of the committee before decision made.

Agreed. Discuss issue at April Committee meeting

9. **Date of Next Committee Meeting 14 April 2019 at 11am, General Meeting 2 June 2018 at 3pm** to be preceded by judging the scarecrow competition.