

## SAUGHTON MAINS ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

### GENERAL MEETING 2 JUNE 2019

Present : Rosina Weightman (Chair), Jean Carletta (Treasurer)

Jan Bradbury (Secretary), Yvonne Dawe, Neil Gray, John McCleary, Chiara Puppi

Jane Ridgeway, Tamsin Spong, Donald Stevenson, Alan Brown, Alan McStay,  
Ronnie Wickstead, Dez Charles,

Apologies: Mary Simpson, Peter Shaw, Peter Moir ( Committee)

John Waterlow Alex Carr, Brian McGuirk, Anna Kiretzinger

Jenni Wilson (149)

#### **1. Minutes of the Committee held on 14 April 2019.**

Noted and approved

#### **2. Chair's Report, including FEDEGA update**

i. Rosina reminded us of the many benefits of being part of a big site.

Allotment holders had benefited from free woodchip deliveries and paths on many plots looked good. Ian Woolard had given us spare plants from CEC including polyanthus.

ii. Rosina and Yvonne have represented SMAA at most FEDAGA meetings. FEDAGA are making educational videos to help new ploholders and are still looking for volunteers to contribute a 10 min lecture on their favourite subject FEDAGA continue's to represent ploholder's interests to the council, negotiates a great 40 percent discount on seeds from Kings seeds and holds the annual Allotments show. There was discussion around how to encourage more people from SMAA to compete in the show and it was suggested we have a mini SMAA show prior to the big event to let people know what's involved in "showing" your produce.

iii. The Committee have worked with Ian Woolard to look at the use of plots. He encouraged people to release plots they weren't using, which led to a record 25 new ploholders on Saughton Mains this year.

iv. Unfortunately, the site had a few shed break-ins in the Spring on plots alongside the cemetery. Following the incident, ploholders were reminded not to keep flammable materials in their sheds. If anyone's shed is broken into it's important to report the incident to Ian Woolard and the police. Official recording of break-ins could help us argue for improved security measures in the future.

- v. Rosina thanked Alan McStay and Donald Stevenson for their continued hard work in looking after the site and reminded all plot holders of their responsibility to take care of the paths around their plot. A successful working party was organised to replace anti-vandal paint on the perimeter and Rosina suggested we will need more working parties to tackle communal maintenance issues. Donald and Gill continue to maintain the best composting toilets in Edinburgh!
- vi. All ploholders were encouraged to enter produce into FEDAGA's Allotment Show on 14 September.
- vii. We really need an active committee to keep things working on site and always need new committee members. Please think if you can offer some time to this. It is only one hour 4 or 5 times per year.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Jean reported that the bank balance remains healthy and relatively stable. The biggest expenditure was the annual hire of the skip, but this considered a good scheme to offer in the Spring when people start to clear their sites and new ploholders often take up sites. Some ideas were discussed re projects that might improve the site.

### **4. Sale of Dry Goods**

A trial to make dry goods easily available has gone well. This involves having pre-packed quantities of growmore, lime etc in a container outside the chalet and asking people to leave monies in the honesty box above the container. People generally are remembering to pay and most people seem to be aware of the system although not everyone seems to have learned about it. Jean asked about ordering more bulk goods eg rock dust. A couple of people said they had bought bags of rock dust / lime for their own use without realising how little they would actually use, and were happy to donate them. People to send details to Jean.

### **5. Site maintenance.**

Alan McStay said a householder adjacent to the small gate wanted the ivy removed as it was encroaching into her garden. The security fence alongside the Cemetery needed to be repaired. The grass on the main paths needs cutting and the edges strimmed. Ian Woolard to be asked to organise. The wood on the porch needs some repair and then oiling, Peter Shaw looking at.

### **6. Soil Testing**

Jean asked about the amount of product people used on their plots and wondered if, with effective soil testing, the amount of product applied could be reduced. Donald Stevenson had tested his soil in the past, it had high fertility but did require some lime if people wanted to grow brassicas. If people wanted to test their soils, ph is the most important test; kits are about £5 and simple to use. Rosina reported that Sheffield University had taken soil samples as part of a longer term study and have promised to report back locally on results.

## **7. Scarecrow Competition**

This was a great success and all the entries were colourful, inventive and very creative !

There were 3 categories Made by a Child / Had a Child's Involvement, Best use of Recycling, and Most Creative. Chiara Puppi and The Welcoming agreed to be the impartial judges of the exhibits.

The winners in the 3 categories were

### **Made by a Child**

First Prize Marian, aged 9, plot 170

Second Prize John Waterlow, 4 year old helped Plot 150

### **Best use of Recycling**

First Prize Tasmin Spong plot 154

Second Prize Julia Gillon plot 62

### **Most Creative**

First Prize Drew and Debra plot 165

Second Prize Plot 155

This was the first Scarecrow Competition and was great fun, many thanks to Jenni Wilson for organising, the Welcoming for judging and Jean for marshalling the walk round and putting the exhibits on facebook for everyone to enjoy.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

Annual General Meeting 8 September 3pm, tea and cakes at 2pm