

SAUGHTON MAINS ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 8 SEPTEMBER 2019

Present : Jean Carletta (Treasurer), Jan Bradbury (Secretary), John McCleary, Chiara Puppi, A. Brown, Angus and Rita McKinnion, Robert Anderson, Kate Anderson, Ed Irvine, Frances Wright, Brenda Rowan, Graeme Evans, Janet Mountford-Smith, John Waterlow, Adam Kyrilczuk, Fiona Wright, Alan Ramsay, Tasmin Spong, Sophia Woodman, Peter Mountford-Smith, Cathy Riley, Gill McMill, Donald Stevenson,

Apologies: Rosina Weightman, Yvonne Dawe, Peter Shaw, Peter Moir, Mary Simpson, Neil Gray, Brian McGuirk, Anna Kretzinger, Douglas White, Marjory Dodd

1. Welcome and apologies

Jean opened the meeting and reported that Rosina was unable to attend the meeting, and that as she was moving house she would be giving up her plot at Saughton Mains, and step down as Chair. She said she would miss the friendship and camaraderie of allotment gardening and wished everyone well. It was agreed that the Committee would thank Rosina for all her hard work. It was agreed that Jean should chair the AGM in her place.

2. Minutes of AGM on 23 September 2018.

The minutes were noted and approved.

Proposed by Tasmin Spong, seconded by John McCleary.

3. Chair's Report

Jean reported that Mary Simpson and Neil Gray were standing down from the committee. This means SMAA needed to recruit more members to stand on the committee. Jan said she had spoken to a couple of people who were interested in joining the committee and would follow it up.

SMAA welcomed over 20 new ploholders this year, which was good to see.

Volunteers are a very valuable resource in getting things done on site, eg

- i. the anti vandal painting party organised by Rosina
- ii. one of the worst plots on site was cleared by Des, Ronnie and Peter;
- iii. Jenni Wilson organised SMAA's first Scarecrow competition
- iv. the sale of small amounts of dry goods from the chalet porch has been successfully trialled;
- v. the hire of a skip in April
- vi. delivery of zoo poo last Autumn

Rosina thanked all volunteers for their help.

4. Treasurers Report.

Jean reported that the payment of membership fees of £429 was balanced by the annual expenditure on the hire of a skip and other routine maintenance. The sale of dry goods, bulk buying of potatoe and onions broke even, as did the delivery of zoo poo.

The current account balance remained at just over £5K

Our current bank is RBS and there was a discussion about changing banks to one with greater interest in sustainability. It was decided that the decision whether to change banks should be delegated to the committee.

It was noted that Rosina can no longer be a bank signatory leaving just 2 people (Jean and Jan) as the 2 signatories required for all cheques drawn.

The Committee to consider this.

5. Site Maintenance, Tasks and Need for Volunteers.

Volunteers help mow the grass, maintain the toilets, represent the site on FEDAGA, maintain the fruit trees in communal areas, and oil the lock on the main gate etc. As an association, we rely on volunteers to get things done, and we are always looking for people to help in whatever way they can.

Particular things we need help with include grass cutting of communal areas and paths. It is thought the main paths alongside the cemetery and cutting across the site in the middle was mown by CEC, but they did struggle this year because of other work pressures. Several people help with grass cutting and others would be happy to help. It was agreed the committee required a plan of the areas to be mowed so that it can be managed better next year. Alan Ramsay volunteered to get involved.

An urgent need is to cut back the brambles, raspberry canes and other undergrowth adjacent to the cemetery boundary. Loopers, secateurs and sturdy gloves would be required,(the Association has some). Tamsin offered to coordinate a working party. It was suggested a Friday / Saturday in mid November when the leaves had dropped would be a good time.

The areas of communal fruit trees have become very overgrown. Cathy Riley offered to help Marjorie with the area near the top carpark. Peter Shaw also helps maintain the areas and should be involved. A plan showing the areas is required.

The box of broken tools had accumulated over the year. Chiara offered to contact the prison to see if they still wanted them.

Donald and Gill do a great job of maintaining the toilets. Donald was still encouraging users to shut the toilet lid after use and Gill requested people to use less toilet paper. Jan said she would put a notice in the toilets to encourage people to use less paper.

6. FEDAGA Update and Election of Representatives.

Every Association is entitled to name one or more members to as delegates to represent their association at the AGM. SMAA has 150plus paid up members of FEDAGA and so is entitled to have 5 delegates at the AGM. Yvonne is willing to represent SMAA at FEDAGA meetings and Jan offered to take Rosina's place, and go to the FEDAGA AGM on 22 October. If any other member is interested in representing SMAA at the FEDAGA AGM please let the Committee know asap.

A copy of FEDAGA's Draft Agenda will be put up on the noticeboard by the main gate. If anyone has any comments they want to raise please let a member of SMAA Committee know, or post a note in the chalet mailbox asap, and no later than the end of September.

7. Plans for the Coming Year and ideas from ploholders

- i. The last 2 deliveries of zoo poo have been successful and were welcomed by ploholders. It was agreed to organise another delivery of 2 wagon loads early in November. Cathy Riley and Jan Bradbury to organise.
- ii. The hire of a skip in April was considered useful, particularly for new ploholders taking on a plot and needing to get rid of unwanted material
- iii. Concern was expressed that some ploholders were using weedkiller to get rid of weeds on their access paths. Donald Stevenson said that SMAA was not an organic site and ploholders could use chemicals on their own plots. It was agreed that ploholders should be asked to warn their neighbours when they were intending to use weedkiller, and to consider asking for help to dig out weeds as an alternative.
- iv. Some plots appear not to have been cultivated at all this year. Ian Woolard to be asked to consider reallocating plots to people on the waiting list.
- v. A space for green waste was requested as some ploholders had too much to dry off and burn. All the loading bays were used regularly but Donald said a new oil drum to burn material would be useful.
- vi. The possibility of having a new pedestrian gate in the bottom end of the site was raised. It would make access easier for people with allotments at that end of the site and who live nearby, although it could be a security risk. Proper access to the Waters of Leith path was also discussed. Issues to be considered by the committee and raised with Ian Woolard.
- vii. Edinburgh Allotment Show on Saturday 14 Sept, everyone encouraged to submit entries. Donald asked that a request for the loan of the apple press be made as he wasn't able to be at the Show.

8. Election of Chair and Committee members for 2019/2020

All the members stood down and the following members were re-elected as below

Jean Carletta (Treasurer), Jan Bradbury (Secretary), Yvonne Dawe, Peter Moir, Peter Shaw, John McCleary, Chiara Puppi.

Rosina was thanked for all her work as Chair of the Association and everyone wished her well for the future. With her resignation the Association is without a Chair. This to be considered by the Committee at their next meeting, including the suggestion that the chair of the Committee be rotated round the Committee members. Jan to follow up interests she had in joining the Committee.

9. Date of Next Meeting

AGM September 2020, date to be arranged

SMAA Committee meeting 10 November 2019, 11am Chalet

