

SAUGHTON MAINS ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE MEETING 2 DECEMBER 2018

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

Jan Bradbury (Secretary), Yvonne Dawse, John McCleary

Apologies: Neil Gray, Mary Simpson, Peter Moir

1. **Minutes of the AGM held on 23 September 2018.** **Noted and approved**

2. **Accounts**

Jean presented the accounts which indicated that the Association's balances were very healthy at over £5K. Committee members agreed this gave the Association scope to look at initiatives and schemes to develop the association during 2019. One idea was to repeat the hire of a large skip in the Spring, the date to be agreed.

Agreed: This and other possible schemes to be considered at February Committee meeting as part of our annual Forward Plans.

The autumn Zoo Poo delivery worked well and all the costs bar £9 were recouped from allotment holders paying 50p per barrow. It was a popular, social scheme and good to see allotment holders joining in.

Agreed : Organising another load in Spring will be considered at the February Committee meeting

Committee members currently do home printing of documents at their own cost.

Agreed: that they should be reimbursed at the rate of 5p per black and white / 25p per colour copy, or actual costs where appropriate.

Jean was thanked for the clear format of the accounts which made it easy to see the different amounts and any changes.

3. **FEDAGA**

Rosina reported on Ian Woolard's talk to FEDAGA which identified a huge shortage of allotment sites in Edinburgh, and how far short the current provision falls below the Allotment Strategy figure. CEC currently looking at 40 new sites, and requiring some developers to provide sites as part of planning agreements attached to planning permissions for residential development.

Edinburgh wide waiting list for allotments is 2750

IW reported that the cost of a full allotment would increase to £115pa for a full plot, pro rata down for half and quarter plots.

IW looking at improving facilities on sites eg Eco Loos where there is currently no toilet provision. SMAA already well provided with composting toilets which are looked after by an excellent team of volunteers.

FEDAGA compiling a list of maintenance and repair items that Allotment Associations wanted them to fund. Agreed that Committee members would bring a list to the February Committee for consideration.

Rosina confirmed that she and Yvonne would go to the FEDAGA meetings and that Rosina would be SMAA link person for FEDAGA to contact.

4. The Welcoming.

Chiara Puppi acted as spokesperson for the group and had set up a demonstration project to show refugees families what could be achieved on an allotment site. The charity requested a second plot from Ian Woolard, but Committee members had previously thought that with a long waiting list that this group shouldn't necessarily have priority. Following a meeting with Ian the group's request was currently on hold. Rosina suggested that the untidy/neglected area by the main gate needed attention and might be something that the group with their funding resources might be willing to tackle. That way the group could have some additional space but not be given priority on the waiting list and a problem area would be tidied up.

Agreed: Rosina agreed to talk to Chiara about the site at the entrance

5. State of Allotment Plots.

As a general principle, the committee considered that with a long waiting list it seemed unfair for people to have plots and not cultivate them. It was also accepted that people's personal circumstances change from time to time, and that this could have an impact on their ability to manage their allotment effectively. However, some plots have been neglected and in a poor condition for some years. It was recognised that Ian Woolard has a difficult job in assessing whether a plot should be assigned to someone else.

Agreed: It was considered that committee members could look at all the plots and identify the ones that have been in a poor condition all year and identify them on a map for discussion at the next meeting.

This raised the issue of site numbering, which also needs to be tackled !

6. Dry Goods Container Store.

Jean reported that some people were concerned they would have difficulty accessing this store now that Alan Macstay had resigned from the committee and no longer had a key.

Agreed: It was agreed that a limited amount of dry goods could be stored in the metal container on the veranda of the association hut on a trial basis.

Goods would be weighed out and priced and people requested to pay for the goods using the locked boxes on the hut with a note of their name, goods

purchased and amount paid. The container would be lined with a heavy duty plastic bin liner, and clearly marked goods stored in recycled yoghurt pots or similar. Committee Members to collect different sized pots for this purpose and leave in the hut, and Jean to check is the fourth keyholder. The other 3 are Rosina, Jean and Peter Shaw

Jean raised a question about who mowed the grass paths as the mowers and other equipment were kept in the shed. Alan McStay had kindly shown Rosina, her husband, and Jean how to use the mower and strimmer. They would set out instructions on using the equipment and encourage other people to volunteer to help with keeping the grass cut.

Agreed: Rosina and Jean to set out instructions for using the grass cutting equipment. Recruitment of more grass cutters to be considered at a future meeting.

7. Bark Chippings.

An allotment holder requested that it would be really good if bark chippings could sometimes be left just inside the entrance to the site to make it easier for allotment holders at that end of the site to barrow them to their site. Rosina explained that the contractors came in at their own volition and the association were not involved.

Agreed: The committee would ask Ian Woolard if he could suggest this to contractors.

- 8. Date of Next Committee Meeting 17 February 11am** to be followed by the weighing out and bagging up of onion and potato orders.