

MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE MEETING 9/02/14

Present - Bob Hare, Jill Pullan, Peter Campbell, John Wilkinson, Pamela Harling, Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Arthur Leigh, Angela Silva-Jones

Apologies for absence – Evelyn Regan

Minutes of last meeting – Accepted with correction - Compost delivery price per barrow load, from 70p to 50p and an additional note that the Allotment funds will subsidise the cost of the delivery up to £50 if necessary.

Matters Arising - Alison has not put up a permanent notice about locking the gate and agreed that we will continue with the current signs, which seem sufficient. The Harrington Scheme donation has been sent.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Bob Hare

Aerial map of the Site – Bob has attempted to obtain an aerial photo of the site to check our historical fence boundaries. These are no longer obtainable from the Council. Bob will check whether one could be obtained from Stamford Maps and how much this would cost.

Website – The new website is being reorganised by Bob with new pictures.

The website will be advertised on the Allotment Group Email and any notices and messages posted on this need to have a link to the website where appropriate.

Compost delivery – Last week's delivery was very successful. There is some confusion over the total cost to the site and Bob will check this.

The next delivery to the site is 3rd April. There will also be a compost delivery to Alexandra Park in June. Thanks very much to Bob organising these deliveries.

Wheelbarrows - Bob continuing to repair these.

2-Ring hob – The manufacturers have now sent a replacement burner which may or may not improve the hob. If the hob with new burner does work safely, we shall offer this for sale on the site.

Creocoting of sheds and compost toilet – These are outstanding jobs to be done. CHADHAS will pay for the Trading Shed paint.

Plant Sale date – Bob will check the date of the Shepherd's Hill plant sale before we finalise our date, probably at the end of May.

North London Waste – Pamela to look into organising a tour of this recycling facility for any tenants who are interested.

Fireworks Night – Thanks to Bob negotiating with the Council, we were able to have access to our site on the night.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

Waiting List and Lettings – 189 on the waiting list. Alison has put the 5 people on the Long List at the top of the waiting list, as they are less likely to be overlooked there. The 5 probationers who started last autumn have all become permanent tenants but she has received no notification from the Council about this. 2 plots have been let this year, 18A Alexandra Pk and the plot in G.L.M which Pete Oliver cleared, so all the plots are let.

Repairs and Improvements – Peter Campbell went round with Alison and the Allotments Officer, Clare, on the inspection.

Tree work – The oak tree in the Nursery has been pruned, and the tenant is very pleased with the result. A dead elm has been removed from plot 10A GLM. There are two trees in poor health, an oak and field maple which Clare has noted and which will be monitored.

Top path – Peter Falzon has cleared much of this and improved safety and accessibility. Agreed that when the path needs clearing again Alison will pay for a more extensive job than we have usually done on this path. Alison will ask Graham Thompson for some paving slabs, to be stored behind the Top Shed, for the top path and added shingle or gravel at the boggy end near the gate would be useful. Arthur dug a water channel to improve the drainage under the top gate recently. Very many thanks to Peter Falzon for clearing the path and improving the entrance at the gate.

Please do not lock the gate so tightly that the next person cannot unlock it from the other side.

Water Inspection – The Council sent a specialist firm from Yorkshire to inspect our system. There is a possibility we may not be allowed to use hoses at all in the future. Colin is putting a water supply and tank by the Top Shed to provide water for the Coffee mornings etc.

Broken fence post – Above 27GLM – this was shown to Clare and will need someone to check that it is being repaired properly.

Trundle wheel – Alison has requested one of these to help her measure and mark out plots. Alison will research prices. Agreed.

Empty bay sometimes used for parking by plots 27A and B. - Does this need some sort of hardcore. Alison will talk to the tenants for their views but it would probably be a costly job to make it weatherproof as a parking bay.

Beehive – Pamela Jackson and Tom Costly have applied to site a beehive on Tom's plot. They have been on the beekeeping course with Fred Clark.

Committee agreed with approval from Fred and the immediate neighbours to Tom's plot.

Permaculture Forest Garden – Below plot 21AP. – The Committee recognises the special value of the plot as an example of permaculture gardening but Alison will draft a letter to the tenant about the necessary maintenance of the trees on this site.

Wire mesh fencing – the repairs needed to this by Peter Campbell's plot on the main site were shown to Clare again and also the dead trees in the woodland behind. This is not Council land and any work there has to be negotiated with the owners.

Compost Toilet Sanitizer – Alison has bought one for the loo.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Peter Campbell

There is £1608 in the Current account and £1442 in the Reserve. There are some outstanding expenses to be paid from these funds. Sally Chubb to be added to the list of signatories on the account.

COFFEE MORNINGS

These continue to be a great success, with 30-40 people attending each morning. Thanks to the cafe team. Many thanks to Peter for organising the delivery of the cooker to the Top Shed. The supplier did not give us the right information about the gas fittings on the cooker but a certified fitter should be connecting the cooker to the gas supply on Monday.

SOIL CONDITIONING AND IMPROVING WORKSHOP

Peter and Sally to organise this in the spring with any other tenants who would be interested in being involved.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

CHADHAS would like the email addresses of tenants on our site so we shall ask tenants when they use the trading shed for their permission.

ALLOTMENT FORUM

Alison will circulate the Minutes of the last meeting including the information about the proposed summer bonfire ban.

POLYTUNNEL

Angela has kindly researched specifications and prices of polytunnels for the site. A permanent and more expensive tunnel seems more suitable and cost effective option. Colin has already prepared a site on his plot. The tunnel can be used to grow on plants for the plant sale and will be a useful facility for the rest of the year. Angela, Colin, Peter and John will form a subgroup to decide on the best one to buy.

A.O.B.

New Committee Member - Neal Jones has sadly had to resign from his post on the Committee.

Maintaining plot borders – A new plot which has been levelled and terraced is now in danger of falling into the bordering plot. Bob to contact

tenant again and suggest some ways in which he can strengthen the border.

Security Camera – John organising testing out a camera on the site.

Allotment Calendar – This was felt to have been a very successful enterprise. Sally will try and get next year's ready for sale in September.

Compost Toilet – The Committee are confident that the arrangements for the disposal of the small amount of dehydrated waste from the toilet are safe, but Arthur is still expressing some concern. He is going to research the cost of collection by a specialist firm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING and AGM: To be arranged