

Ally Pally Allotments Association
Committee Meeting
23.09.12

PRESENT: Bob Hare, Alison Liney, Jill Pullan, John Wilkinson, Arthur Leigh, Sally Chubb, Evelyn Regan, Pamela Harling,

APOLOGIES: Peter Campbell

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: Agreed

CHAIRS REPORT

Website - Bob has purchased website space – will be up and running in a few days.

Email list – The Google system has been improved and so Bob has decided to retain this group email for the site.

North London Waste Authority Compost – We have still not found a cost effective way of delivering the free compost to the site. There is a delivery of this compost to the bottom car park in Ally Pally on 11 November.

Top Gate – Bob to fill in hole in gate within the next two weeks.

Shelving in Trading Shed – Bob has asked Colin to help him with this project. This will clear space in the Meeting Shed.

Art Students – Neil will ask his Art Students to exhibit some of their work on the allotment when their assessments at college are over.

Photographer – Bob had been approached by a photographer who requested permission to take shots of the site. Committee agreed the project but the photographer has not followed this up. However it did enable us to work out some clear guidelines for similar projects in the future.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Lettings- Waiting list 210, 4 Vacant Plots. One of the smaller convivial plots to be split between the two existing tenants either side. One vacant plot needs clearing before the next rubbish collection and then prospective tenants can be shown round. Alison has approved the tenancies of all remaining probationers but still await an up-to-date tenants' list from the Council.

Site Inspection – A tenancy is terminated if the tenant receives 2 non-compliance notices in any three consecutive inspections or if a tenant fails to correct the fault by the specified date. Sometimes tenants are sent a letter and not a non-compliance notice. All correspondence was sent out quickly this time and Alison received copies. It was agreed that Alison will not post the date of future inspections on the site and she will email tenants and put up notices to this effect. The problem of uncultivated plots, as highlighted by one tenant, was discussed, and efforts to encourage tenants to comply are ongoing. However, this year has been particularly difficult because of the weather.

Trees – A notice has been posted on the site about the size and type of trees permitted. Alison will also email these guidelines to tenants.

Discount cards - Budget agreed for Bob to organise 100 or so of these to be printed and laminated. This will not be expensive.

Autumn rubbish collection - Date to be arranged by Alison. The day before a work party to be arranged to clear a vacant plot of rubbish.

RHS Tree Planting – Alison circulated details of this – agreed this could be a future project.

Top path work party – Sunday 14 October 11am-2pm. The debris from this work to be added to the existing pile in the hope that tenants will avail themselves of the compostable material. The idea of a permanent composting area was raised but rejected because of the work involved in maintaining it.

Pete Oliver's maintenance work – Alison now emails Pete and Peter Campbell, the Treasurer, to confirm the work asked for.

Loo cleaning rota – The Compost toilet needs regular cleaning and as far as we know Alison and Ann are the only people who do this for the rest of us who use the toilet. Sally will put a weekly rota up in the toilet for users to add their names to – we hope! Alison has put up a list of guidelines of how the toilet needs to be cleaned in an eco-friendly way.

Security - Break in 16/8/12 and later crop thefts – Alison met with the police, the neighbourhood police and the Scene of Crime officer. She showed them the damage and likely entry points to the site. They now have another key to the gate. Their advice was sought about the use of barbed wire and we agreed we will ask Colin to add barbed wire to the more 'out of the way' fences. Any use of barbed wire requires a warning notice to be displayed. The top fence into the park, which is more visible, will be reinforced with additional 'cut off spikes'. Changing the locks does not seem an easy or effective option. Alison will ask Colin and Tommy to walk round the perimeter fencing with herself and John and Bob to check whether there are any other vulnerable areas of fencing where intruders can easily get over. Bob to continue to research security cameras and buy two. He will also check whether the Council would consider putting a security camera in the Palace at the bottom gate.

Taps – Colin has put the Bibcock taps in place of those stolen. These have non-return valves. The council may reimburse us for these. Alison has been researching plastic taps and has now learnt that Rectory Farm allotments have had plastic taps installed, so she is going to try and find out the name of the contractor who did this and the make of taps. We have spent £180 on taps so far and will need to spend another £285 or so depending on the price of plastic taps if we can find them. The stopcock on Ernie's old plot needs digging out and replacing. Colin can do this. Budget for these tap repairs agreed. Arthur pointed out that Hozelock make non-returnable hose connectors.

Tree work - Alison has now obtained quotes from three contractors. The work needs to be done and has been agreed with the Tree Officer, and it will only get more expensive as the trees get bigger. The middle quote was accepted and agreed by the Committee. Some further work on an unlet plot is also needed and Alison will ask the cheapest contractor for a quote for this and he seems the most suitable person for this smaller job. There were some reservations about the toxicity of the poison used on the tree stumps and the contractor will be asked for details of the chemical he uses.

MEETING SHED

The windows now open and thanks very much to Colin for doing this job. Peter Campbell and Colin have suggested painting the floor with special hard wearing floor paint. This seems a good idea and thanks to them both for their offer. Once the shed is emptied of the show equipment it will be clearer what other repairs and improvements need to be carried out. Bob has acquired a large teapot for the shed for £5.00 and Jill explained that Mavis also has a large teapot which can be kept and used in the shed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 9/12/12 at 2pm - possibly at Jill's.