

**MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING 6/10/13**

**Present** - Robert Hare, Peter Campbell, John Wilkinson, Pamela Harling, Evelyn Regan, Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Arthur Leigh, Neal Jones

**Apologies for absence** – None

**Minutes** of 15.6.13 meeting – accepted

**CHAIR'S REPORT – Bob Hare**

Bob – nothing to report this meeting that would not be covered by the Site Secretary in her own report and in Action needed below.

**SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney**

**Waiting List and Lettings** – 185 max. The list is moving more quickly now as so many people have moved away. Alison is letting to tenants who joined the waiting list in December 2005. Alison will still write to all those at the top of the list whose phone numbers no longer work. Long List – 5, Unconfirmed tenants – 1, Probationers – 6. Vacant Plot – 1. This plot is a more shady plot and overgrown with raspberries. No prospective tenants shown this plot have wanted it. Pete Oliver to do some work on the plot before it is offered to tenants. Terminations – 1.

**Security** – Bottom Gate. Alison will put a new notice up to remind tenants to **ALWAYS LOCK THE GATE**. We have had several thefts from the site. On the 11<sup>th</sup> September metal frames were taken from the bee plot, a row of potatoes from plot 5 The Nursery. Deposits of human faeces have been found on a plot. The Allotments Office, Clare has a quote for metal inserts to strengthen the main gate of £1,677.00. Clare will get a full specification for this quote, as it is not clear what exactly is included so we can investigate other cheaper options. We also have to bear in mind there are other weak points around the whole perimeter fence.

**Repairs and Improvements** – This is the list the Council already has for works to be done.

- Tree work – Acer campestre needs dead wooding by GLM and Ally Pally site. Oak tree to be pruned where limb fell. Dead elm on plot 10B GLM to be cut down. Peter or Bob will complete a pre-inspection site survey with Alison and also join Alison and Clare on the Tree inspection at the end of November or beginning of December.
- Saplings along border between the bottom of the far end of GLM and the top of A.P. are still a problem. Alison will talk to the tenants.
- Wire mesh fencing – remove and replace with new at 26 and 28 GLM – we are still waiting for this.
- Metal insert for main gate – as above

**Top Path** – Pete Oliver to trim. Alison to meet with him to arrange this.

**Rubbish Collection 9am 7.10.13** – several collection points arranged on the site.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Peter Campbell**

There is £1602 in the Current Account and £649 in the Reserve Account. Peter has received the money from the Council for repairs to the taps and the Annual Grant. A donation is to go to the Harrington Scheme.

**ACTION NEEDED**

There are outstanding projects which need to be finished or resolved in the near future, e.g.

**Allotment Boundary:** Bob is dealing with 3 separate fencing problems in Grove Lodge Meadow where there is an incursion onto the site. He has asked for aerial photos from the Council of the position of the boundary before the new fencing. Target date for completing this – end of October.

**Website:** Bob continues work on this. Target – end of the week.

**Soil in front of the fence on the top path:** More soil to be removed by the next meeting.

**Compost delivery:** November 11<sup>th</sup> in the car park at a cost to tenants of 70p per wheelbarrow load. We hope to arrange another delivery in the Spring.

**Car park wheelbarrows:** Up to £75 agreed to replace wheels and paint wheelbarrows in the car park. The old shovels also need refurbishing. These communal tools will also be marked so they can be identified if they are not returned after use. Bob and Neal offered to do this work. Bob will email tenants with a wheelbarrow amnesty offer, in case there are some unreturned communal wheelbarrows lurking on tenants' plots.

**Two ring burner in the Meeting Shed:** Arthur has been in touch with the Manufacturer who needs some more information about the exact model we have bought, and who may then be able to offer a solution to the malfunction of the burners. If this fails, we will research buying a new and more efficient burner.

**Polytunnel:** Bob and Colin researching a suitable communal polytunnel to be set up on Colin's plot for the growing season. Alison asked Bob to check in the Tenancy agreement in case there are any size limitations and also discuss with the Allotments Officer.

**Trading shed and Compost toilet:** Work party to paint both with Creocote by Jan or Feb 14  
**COFFEE MORNINGS**

Thanks to all for making these mornings a success. Thanks to Peter and Colin for the new sideboard in the Meeting Shed. Sally will give Peter the takings at the end of the year less expenses, whilst keeping a cash float for any new expenses.

#### **APPLE DAYS**

The first two days apple pressing days have been really well attended. Everyone agrees the fresh apple juice is far superior to any you can buy. Please give any spare apples you have to anyone who wants to press some juice.

#### **TREE REMOVALS BY TENANTS**

Bob was concerned that some fruiting trees had been unwisely removed by new tenants when they were producing fruit. Alison assured him that this was not the case. Tenants will be advised not to remove fruiting trees during their probationary period unless asked to by the Site Secretary. Trees on plots should not exceed 3 metres.

#### **ALLOTMENT FORUM**

The last meeting discussed the Allotment Improvement Plan, which has been delayed, the one plot per household policy and the forthcoming Thames Water inspections. The next Forum will discuss the proposed summer bonfires ban. Sally to attend and take the Committee's recommendations – no total ban in the summer but a reinforcing of the current guidelines about not lighting fires where and when they will annoy neighbours and not burning anything which will create a lot of smoke or noxious fumes. Peter, Neal, Sally and Bob will plan a composting and soil improving workshop in the Meeting Shed.

#### **A.O.B.**

**New Committee Member:** Neal Jones co-opted onto the Committee today. Neal is also the CHADHAS Secretary so will be a valuable link with that organisation.

Coffee Mornings

**Fireworks in the Park:** November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Although the Park will be cordoned off, as far as we know, our site will be fully accessible for tenants.

**New name for the Meeting Shed:** Peter will email round a ballot to tenants.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Arthur passes on any mail from Pauline Sydel to Alison who passes them onto tenants if relevant. Pauline Sydel is very welcome to attend one of our Committee meetings.

**Metal Barrow:** This was kept in the meeting shed but took up a lot of space. It can be useful when heavy items need to be moved and will be kept at the back of the Trading Shed.

**Free Compost give-away:** 20th October in the Park

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 9<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm

