

MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 07.06.14

Present - Bob Hare, Jill Pullan, Peter Campbell, Pamela Harling, Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Arthur Leigh

Apologies for absence – None received

Minutes of last meeting – Accepted with correction – Under 2-ring hob, it should read jets not burners.

MATTERS ARISING

2-ring hob: Bob to replace the jets and offer this for sale to tenants, with clear indications of any faults.

Trading Shed paint: CHADHAS feel unable to pay for this. We will buy from our own funds. The painting of the shed will be a job for the Autumn.

North London Waste: Pamela has researched this and will offer some dates.

Soil Improving and Compost Workshop: Thanks to Sally and Peter for organising this. Another session planned for the Autumn.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Bob Hare

APAA Website: Bob is continuing to develop and improve the website. Sally will post the Minutes of the Committee Meetings on the website once Bob has created a page for these. There is a Missing Items slot on the website as several items have gone missing lately including the No. 4 Wheelbarrow, and a rose bush in a pot. Any photos for the website can be sent to Bob as putting photos on the site is tricky.

Council Compost: There are still a lot of outstanding I.O.U's for the compost. Bob constructing a concrete money box to remain permanently outside the Trading Shed for money owing. The amount of compost that can be shovelled into a wheelbarrow varies between tenants and there have been complaints to the Committee that this is not fair. It has even been suggested that some tenants are not paying at all! Bob will post a cartoon picture to advise the amount of payment for very heaped large, medium less heaped, or small load. We are managing to cover the cost of the compost so far. We need to thank Alexandra Palace for their help with this.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

Waiting List and Lettings – Waiting list 193. There are 4 probationers. There were 9 Dirty Plot notices after the last inspection, and 1 tenant has now been issued with a Termination Notice.

Repairs and Improvements:

Tree work: The dead oak in the car park has been reduced to it's trunk. Another oak is to be dead wooded and reduced by a third. The tenants have been informed. There is a dead tree by the bottom gate which we will ask Pete Oliver to remove.

Top Path: Thanks to Graham for bringing them and Tommy for laying . Only one was stolen! This is a great success and improves the path.

Plumbing: A leak occurred on plot 32A on a spur pipe to a new tap on plot 33A. All tenants need to be aware that any new spur piping for taps for their own convenience needs to be agreed by the Committee and laid in a way that is safe from damage from the current or future tenants. There was a majority decision of the Committee to pay Colin, as a goodwill gesture, for the repair of this pipe. Haringey Council could be announcing a total hosepipe ban in order to comply with water regulations on allotments. Details of these proposals in the Allotments Forum Minutes.

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.

Hand 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 café 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