

MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 07.12.14

Present – Bob Hare, Jill Pullan, Peter Campbell, Jenny Bourne Taylor, Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Arthur Leigh,

Apologies for absence – John Wilkinson, Angela Silva Jones

Minutes of last meeting – Agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee: Jenny attended the last meeting as our representative. There was a presentation by the company redeveloping the east end of the Palace. Details can be found on the Haringey website under Planning Applications HGY/2014/3122

2-ring hob: Despite Bob's best efforts, this is still not working and needs to be thrown away, as it is probably not safe to use.

Website: The Minutes of the Committee Meetings are now on the website.

Housing for Top Shed gas bottles: Peter and Colin are planning on Monday to rehouse the gas bottles outside the shed at the back, in their own custom made locked cupboard with access from inside the shed to turn the gas on and off.

A slam lock for the bottom gate: More research needed for this.

Soil conditioning and composting workshop: This proved to be successful and 5 tenants have already signed up for the Spring workshop.

Fruit pressing workshops: Also very popular. The last session was cancelled due to lack of fruit crops this year. Peter plans to start the sessions earlier in the year in 2015.

A.O.B. Stopcock key: Arthur is getting another key to replace the one that has been lost. It must be kept in the Trading Shed.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Bob Hare

Wheelbarrows: We are down to four working barrows as three need repairs and two are missing.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

Waiting List and Lettings – The waiting list has reduced to 190. There are 2 vacant plots and 5 probationers.

Maintenance etc. -

Trees: Pete has done autumn pruning.

Rubbish collection: Booked for Monday 27 October but lorry didn't arrive. Rescheduled for 29th and all went off OK.

Council pruning of border with the road: The Council took advantage of the closed road for the Fireworks to severely prune our border with the Park. This has created a security problem at the fence line. The growth has been cut back with a power saw including strategically placed dead branches. Alison will survey the damage and talk to Mark Evison, the Park's Manager.

Plumbing: Alison will contact Colin about the leak by plot 44GLM.

Trundle Wheel: Richard Dawson has promised to get Alison one of these and will be reimbursed.

Insurance Policy: Alison will give the renewal form to Peter. We now have 157 tenants including probationers.

Bee Plot: The path needs work to make it safe. Bob and Alison will have a look at this and decide a way forward.

Repair to fence along Top Path: Householder has constructed an effective barrier and Alison will talk to Colin about this repair.

Security: Sheds broken into in November. Strimmer and 2 sacks of spuds stolen. Alison reported thefts to the Neighbourhood police. Alison was shown where thieves were seen climbing into the site from the flats at the bottom of the hill. This boundary needs reinforcing in some way – raised fencing, prickly bushes.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Peter Campbell

The Business Account £1609, Current Account £2466. Current Account figure subject to some outstanding transactions.

COUNCIL COMPOST

£199.99 collected from tenants to cover the cost of the delivery. Bob was not able to arrange another delivery this winter due to the pressures on the Park staff. He hopes to organise another in the Spring. We discussed limiting the number of barrow loads to 15. There will be no limitations to the amount of bark chip barrow loads for each tenant as this would be very difficult to enforce.

CREOCOTING TRADING SHED

Peter to organise this before March 2015.

ALLOTMENT FORUM

Sally attended the last meeting where there was a lot of discussion about unauthorised toilets on sites, and fire risks. Alison will send round the Minutes.

A.O.B.

Top Shed: Discussion about how to improve the front of the Top Shed with a porch or an awning. A porch would interfere with the turning space for cars and lorries. An awning could prove useful as both a shelter from the rain and from the sun. Sally and Peter to research possibilities.

Parking: The boggy ground area half way down hill sometimes used for parking. This space is part of the allotment behind and not a parking bay. Bob has researched a variety of 'green' alternative hard core materials but none of them would ensure a hard enough surface for cars, which could also be removed if necessary to return the space to a growing area. Parking space on the site is very limited but it is primarily an allotment site and as with front gardens, paving over areas for cars is discouraged by the Council. A good solution would be to designate a turning space in the top car park. There are car parking areas outside the site at the top and bottom of the hill.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To be arranged