

MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 04.06.2016

Present – Bob Hare, Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Angela Silva-Jones, Jill Ellis, Pamela Jackson, Peter Campbell, David Craig

Apologies for absence – Jenny Bourne Taylor, John Wilkinson, Jill Pullan

Minutes of last meeting – Agreed.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

Waiting List and Lettings – The waiting is 155 (moved 16 places recently), 4 New Tenants and 8 Probationers, 1 Vacant Plot.

Maintenance – At the bottom gate, do the laurels, ash saplings and hedge along the fence outside obscure the view of traffic? We need a new wire mesh behind fence immediately on the right. Work party to be organised. There will be a work party to remove the Jasmine at the back of the Top Shed on July 2nd. Alison will post an email about this.

Plumbing – Is there a tenant with plumbing skills who would be willing to be paid to carry out plumbing repairs on the site?

Turning space in the car park – Alison to ask Billy if he could paint this space onto the ground in the car park.

Tenants' Handbook – Alison has circulated the Tenants Handbook from Wolves Lane for us all to look at. Local rules would need to be added re parking, bonfires, noisy power tools etc. Alison, Peter and Jill agreed to form a sub committee to draw these up for a Handbook, in time for the AGM.

Devolved Management – Alison circulated the Schedule of Responsibilities from Wolves Lane Allotments via The Allotment Forum. This useful table shows the allotment jobs currently carried out by the Council and those which are the responsibility of the Site. The Committee's general feeling was that few of the Council jobs can be transferred. For example, Site Inspections by one's own Site Secretary or another Site's could easily lead to serious difficulties, without back up from the Council. Please send further feedback to Alison by next Saturday.

NEW SOCIAL SHED - Report from Angela

We have held two well attended meetings about the shed, the first on the 28th of April in the Top Shed and the second on the 11th May in Clive Hayworth's new garden shed at his home on Redston Road. All attendees have volunteered their skills and help for the project. Volunteers with professional skills include Mike Hales (structural engineer), Clive Hayworth (specialist joiner) and Dick Tomlinson (arboriculturist).

Discussions at our first meeting were about the design of the building, the constraints of the site, the requirements of the council, the ideas that came from John's presentation at the Cafe morning and the subsequent concerns raised by plot holders and the council over the suggestion of a roof terrace for the building. We resolved that the building and its foundations would be designed in such a way that would avoid harming the old oak tree on site ie mini pile foundations and not a concrete slab. It was agreed that having a roof terrace could not be considered an option and that the building should be kept as low as possible to avoid overshadowing neighbouring plots. It was suggested that a veranda on the south side of the building might be a suitable alternative to a roof terrace. Clive Hayworth said that he would approach an Architect friend, Tim Bushe, to ask if he would be interested in getting involved. We talked about the budget for the build. It was felt that even with a £10k grant from the Big Lottery Fund and the money available from APAA funds (approx. £5k which would include the predicted takings from this year's plant sale) this would not be enough and that we would need to raise additional money to realise the project. There was a suggestion that we approach a school of architecture or similar organisation who might take on the project and partly finance it although it was felt that this would be difficult to organise and monitor. Clive Hayworth then invited us to see his new prefabricated timber building in his garden that he had purchased from Eastern Europe through a franchise in the UK. This building (with a green roof) is 4m x 6m and cost £6.5k which included the transport from the port and concrete slab foundation which Clive laid himself. The issue of whether or not we would need planning consent and building control approval from the council was debated. (John Wilkinson has since confirmed that we will need planning consent).

We were welcomed with a glass of wine by Clive Hayworth and introduced to his new garden building where we held our second meeting. John Wilkinson chaired and began by pointing out that we had much to do before even applying for planning permission and therefore any building work would not realistically start before next year 2017. It was agreed that the first task is to recruit a working party and clear the area behind the Top Shed. This is to be done as soon as possible. Dick Tomlinson had invited a guest speaker, Ellen Scrimgeour, who gave us a talk about her work and specifically a project for Highgate Primary School that she is building with other volunteers at a site at Highgate Allotments. See her summary appended to this report. Her talk usefully provoked discussion about appropriate technologies; timescales and skills; numbers of volunteers required; on site storage of materials; cost etc. Peter Campbell pointed out that most of the volunteers would be allotmenters and as gardeners would probably only be available to work during the winter months. It was agreed that a prefabricated building if we could afford it would be the practical alternative. Clive Hayworth confirmed that architect Tim Bushe was interested in our project and would like to visit the site. (Subsequent to our meeting he has been up and together with Clive and Mike we showed him around. Clive has since reported that Tim is very interested in getting involved and would like to visit again after the back of the shed has been cleared). We discussed the possibility of having a professional survey of the site done. Mike Hales offered to speak to a surveyor. (Mike has subsequently contacted James Todd at Premier Surveys Ltd. who suggested that a survey was likely to cost £750 + VAT based on a day's work on site and a day in the office. Mike explained that this was likely to be 5% of the budget but he was not sympathetic).

Also since our last meeting Clive has sourced 50m of 1.8m high larch fencing which we have first refusal for. Ashmount Junior School is replacing their almost new fencing because of health and safety concerns (some of the children have picked up splinters).

The date of our next meeting is yet to be set but is planned for soon after the plant sale.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Peter is compiling the end of year accounts with Harry Pullan's help. There has been no response to Peter's announcement that he will be standing down as Treasurer. We need to speak to people on the site about volunteering for this post.

COLIN'S PLOT

Discussion about the best arrangement for Colin's plots as the Polytunnel is sited on his space. Initially 30A will be transferred to his wife's name.

AGM 16th JULY at 4pm

Social after the meeting – We will ask Jenny Bourne Taylor if she would be willing to organise this event again. We need to put up the gazebo for the meeting. The Wildlife Officer and Treasurer posts will be vacant and need volunteers.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS – Saturday 24th September, 2pm in The Top Shed