

MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 10.12.2016

Present – Bob Hare, Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Jill Ellis, Pamela Jackson, Peter Campbell, David Craig, Sara Leviten, John Wilkinson, Steve Shaw

Apologies for absence – Angela Silva-Jones

Signing of declaration of acceptance and willingness to act in the interests of the Association – All present signed

Minutes of last meeting – Agreed.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Bob Hare

Rubbish Collection – It is unclear whether the Council will continue to provide this service for us.

North London Waste Compost deliveries – Impossible at the current time. It needs two vehicles to complete the delivery and one of the vehicles needed is out of commission. There may be a possibility of a delivery in March if the vehicles and team available and we could consider a double load of 30 rather than 15 tons, but managing that amount of compost would need to be carefully planned.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

Waiting List and Lettings – Waiting list 144 including 13 on the Long list. The Long List is for tenants who have come to the top of the Waiting List but do not yet want a plot, or tenants who have had to give up their plot for any reason, and may want one in the future. Those on the Long List need to contact Alison in 2018 to renew their interest, or she will take them off the list, and they need to contact Alison when they are ready to take on a plot. There are 4 new tenants, 4 probationers and 2 vacant plots.

Asset inspection - Peter and Alison went round with Claire on Nov 21. Claire took photos of where the Ash tree was cut down in a garden in Springfield Avenue and where there are still bits of Ash tree weighing down our fence. Claire checked there were no dangerous trees on our perimeter and whether any gaps were a security risk. Regarding the repairs to the road, the council has no legal obligation to provide a road we can drive on. Claire also took photos of plot 2AP, where there is a large amount of rubbish to be cleared. She will get an estimate for the cost of the removal of the rubbish by a council contractor and we will do the same. There is far too much for an allotment work party to remove.

3B The Nursery – Angela spent several hours clearing the shed on plot 3B. In view of all the time the plot owner's partner has given to the association while auditing our accounts, it was agreed that we pay Angela £50.00 out of our funds.

Camera - We need a security camera on the car park to check who is tipping poor bark chips there without our permission. John confirmed that he would be ordering a camera next week and fixing it in an appropriate position very shortly.

Security at bottom of the hill – Now that Angela has cleared the trees behind the railings we need some netting as a temporary measure to stop people climbing over. Sara and Bob will organise this.

Terry Osborne's plot – Terry has given up one of his plots and Liz Woodford is taking it on. She gave up her plot recently and prefers this one.

Rubbish Collection - Thanks to Bob for negotiating with the Council to do this, as they originally said it would be impossible. It is not clear if they will do rubbish collections in the future. Please take home any rubbish that you can on the plot and do not accumulate rubbish from year to year.

RHS Membership - Steve has paid our membership and insurance premiums.

Avian 'Flu – Hopefully there is no threat to the chickens on our plot as they are enclosed in chicken wire and wild birds do not have access to them.

Allotments Forum – Alex Fraser, Allotments Officer, is moving towards appointing a dedicated allotments officer but there's no confirmation yet. Site Secretaries were supposed to be trained in the use of the new computer programme, Colony, by now, but nothing has happened. The next meeting is January 14th.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Steve Shaw

Our new Treasurer reported that there was £1812 in the current account and £4610 in the business account. Steve has been notified that the Council grant of £966 is on its way. We have recently spent £400 on the compost toilet repairs and solar panel and fan. Steve reminded us that we spend twice as much every year on repairs and maintenance than we receive in Council grant, so we are dependent on our own fund-raising efforts. Sally reported that the Café has now raised £1000 towards the new shed fund and will give Steve a cheque for this amount. This money will go into the business account and be ring-fenced for the new shed. A very great vote of thanks to Peter Campbell for all his work as our Treasurer over the past years.

NEW SOCIAL SHED – John Wilkinson

John reported that the rough plan so far is for a square shed made of timber with a sedum roof. Possibly to be sited in the far left hand corner of the proposed site, so that there is a clear area in front of the shed and to the right hand side, for sitting and enjoying the view. Angela and John to survey the site together with this plan in mind and to get back to the Committee with their report. Bob has serious concerns about us having another timber shed which is potentially a fire risk. Unfortunately, arson attacks on allotments are not unknown. John said this would be taken into consideration in the construction and materials used. There may be a way of using timber but making it more fire-resistant. There was discussion about the concrete slab presently under the Top Shed and whether this could be used as a sitting area as it might be difficult to remove it. Sally thanked Peter, John and Geoff Palmer for moving the Show tables from the Top Shed and removing the cupboard. This has given the Café an indoor sitting area which is a great improvement when it is cold.

Steve proposed a vote of thanks to all the people who help run and support the Café for raising £1000, this year, for the new social shed fund.

SECOND POLYTUNNEL – Bob Hare

The proposed second poly tunnel could be used for raising plants for the Plant Sale, and by tenants to grow on their own plants. The original poly tunnel is in constant use, we no longer have the use of Colin's greenhouses and the Plant Sale is an effective way of raising funds. A second poly tunnel would easily pay for itself in a short time. Bob had brought details to the meeting of various poly tunnels for sale of various sizes. Bob also suggested the idea of having some open days to raise funds. He knows of a seed merchant, Franchi, who will come and give a talk and sell their seeds. Geoff has kindly offered to provide some potting on space in his new shed on his plot. It was agreed a new poly tunnel can be purchased with a budget of about £1000. Bob and David will further research and buy.

FRUIT PRESS – Peter Campbell

A fruit press to be purchased for the site, for about £250. The apple pressing days are very popular, particularly in those years when we have a good harvest. Peter and David to research and buy. We need to find a suitable place to store it.

BEE HEALTH SITE-WIDE – Bob Hare

Bob has circulated some guidelines and suggestions for maintaining bee health on the site, including a requirement to provide open records to be shared with other bee keepers on Ally Pally Allotments. There was a heated discussion and some disagreement about the best way forward to achieve this and several people at the meeting suggested it was not helpful to revisit things that may or may not have happened in the past or at the AGM. There will be a meeting of interested parties, including Sarah, Pam, Jill, David, Bob and Alison to try and take bee keeping on the site forward in a positive direction. Sarah has asked a local bee keeper who is possibly interested in helping with training, to visit the Ally Pally Apiary next Saturday.

THE HYDRATING TOILET – John Wilkinson

The Company who make the toilets visited our loo and pumped out the excess liquid. A solar powered fan has been fitted in the chimney and it appears to be working well, to draw air over the

reservoir of waste material and dry it out, all at a cost of £400. John will monitor the level of liquid in the reservoir at the back of the toilet regularly, to make sure it is not rising again.

TRADING SHED – Peter Campbell

Peter can now make independent orders for Ally Pally. We are also stocking some extra items, such as second hand tools to be recycled and sold and the liquid feed available locally. Peter needs to complete a seed order shortly, of at least £175.00, to get the discount, and will ask people for suggestions. It can be very difficult to predict tenants' preferences from year to year. Potatoes will be available from early February. Peter will be recruiting some new members of the trading team who staff the shed on a rota basis. We need to remind and encourage tenants to use the Trading Shed and Peter will also send round an email. Many thanks to Peter for all his hard work running the Trading Shed.

CO - OPTED MEMBERS

Under the terms of our Constitution, we are allowed up to 10 members of the Committee and 4 Co-opted members. Bob will email the Committee to confirm which of those members are co-opted.

Committee Meeting Dates 2017 - March 4, June 10 or 17, AGM July 22

A.O.B.

Representative on the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee – John Wilkinson volunteered to go to these meetings to replace Jenny Bourne Taylor.

Plant Sale – Provisional date June 4th 2017. Bob will check with Shepherds Hill when they are having their plant sale.

Rubbish – when giving up a tenancy some tenants leave large amounts of rubbish which has to be cleared before the plot can be re-let. This can involve the Association in a lot of work and some expense. There was a proposal that a returnable deposit of £100 is given to APAA by each new tenant in case that money is needed to clear rubbish at the end of the tenancy. This needs to be discussed at the AGM.

Thanks – to Peter and Susie for hosting the Committee Meeting.

Date of next meeting - 4th March 2017