

MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 11.3.2017

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

Apologies for absence – Angela Silva-Jones, Sara Leviten, Steve Shaw

Minutes of last meeting – Agreed with one correction

Matters Arising – Geoff has offered to add some wire netting to the bottom gate area to deter people from climbing over. Shepherd's Hill Plant Sale is 28th May. Check Angela has been paid the agreed amount for her work on 3b The Nursery. Bob will set up a search on Ebay for a suitable Fruit Press.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Bob Hare

Scaffolding planks and horse manure deliveries – Bob organised, via Bruno Dore, a successful delivery of planks and horse manure recently on the site.

NLWA Council Compost – Bob has had to cancel the proposed delivery of Council compost as the council are still not in a position to take the compost up the hill.

Cat-feeding calendar – Bob has put a google calendar on the APAA website to organise who is feeding Ming the allotment cat.

Security camera – This is providing good quality pictures

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

Waiting List and Lettings

132 on waiting list and 10 on long list. 5 new tenants and 5 probationers. There are 2 vacant plots of which one, 7A The Nursery, has been vacant for a year as it's under trees and near the road. Alison seeks the Committee's permission to go down the waiting list to find a tenant – agreed.

Water and taps – A vote of thanks to Peter and Stavros for putting the water on and sorting out the tap problems. The key to the main water tap no longer works and a spanner is needed to turn it. Peter will email tenants to remind them to alert the Committee as soon as there are leaks to their water supply or a faulty tap and not to wait until the problem is worse.

Trees – The ash tree in the garden of 44 Springfield Avenue has been tidied and is clear of our fence. The oak in the old hedgerow in GLM, between plots 22 and 24 has been pruned of dead wood, by the Council.

Plot 2 AP – Veolia have quoted £2,268 to clear it. If the Council do not agree to this quote, another solution will have to be found. It would be an enormous task for a work party. The 10 pole plot needs to be made into two separate plots.

Wood chip – The no wood chip notices have been taken off the gate and there should be a delivery of wood chips shortly.

Rubbish collection – We are told it is unlikely we shall get any rubbish collections in the near future.

Plot 36 GLM – Terry Osborne has been asked to remove his rubbish from what is now Liz Woodford's plot. Alison saw him and told him it was his responsibility and that we would put anything he left onto one of his remaining plots.

Allotments Forum - Alison is attending the Allotments Forum Steering Group on Tuesday with Alex Fraser and they will be discussing the lack of rubbish collections, and the new allotments officer etc. Alison will email round the results of this discussion.

Website - Alison asked Bob to ensure that the tenancy agreement and other allotment council documents are on the website. Bob will check.

The Communal plot - Annie is growing potatoes for the Cafe at the front of the plot in a space which will not prevent the fleece 'boats' being sited there for the plant sale. Bob has some plant sale plants already potted up which he will store on this plot.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Steve Shaw

Key expenditure since we last met: wildlife camera to use as security camera - £174.00, seeds for plant sale £75.00. Key income: Council grant £966.00, Cafe donation £1000.00. Status of Current Account: £2,400, Business Reserve Account: £5,600

PLANT SALE – Peter Campbell

Pete reminded the Committee that he is organising the schedule of work for growing plants for the sale but not organising the whole event. The Plant sale has two benefits to the site – an income and the provision of plants for tenants in the growing season. With this in mind Pete is going to ask volunteers to start sowing vegetable plants shortly, so that there are additional plants ready before the Plant sale to be sold on Sundays at the Trading Shed. Jim and Ros Jenks have very kindly offered us the use this year of the large greenhouse on their plot for potting up plants for the sale.

TRADING SHED – Peter Campbell

Jess, Christine and Shelley have joined the team. We had a delivery of stock in February and there will be another delivery later this month, when Peter will be asking for volunteers to help unload. The new delivery will include more compost, more farmyard manure which is proving very popular and a new stock of fleece.

POTATO DAY – Peter Campbell

The Potato Day was a great success with a shared feeling of excitement at the beginning of the growing year. Jess, Angela, Susie and Pete sold potatoes in kilo's and singly and Annie, Sally, Evelyn and Jill sold potato treats and teas and coffees in the Top Shed. Pamela and Jo ran a potato printing workshop for the children. Peter had bought £80.00 of loose potatoes and has more than covered the cost of these. A vote of thanks to Peter and all the helpers.

THE BEE PLOT – Bob Hare

Bob read out an email from Sara Leviten and Fred explaining that they were resigning from the Haringey Apiary on the site. Alison will send them the termination notices. Sara is also resigning from the Committee. Discussion about the best way forward now that we are losing Sara and Fred. There are two possibilities for using the plot again as an Apiary with a training aspect to it, and these will be pursued. Alison reminded us that the surrounding plots need to be consulted before a new Apiary is set up.

RHS Day

The RHS are offering to visit allotments on specific days to run a talk and question and answer session on the site. We will apply for one of these days, although there is no guarantee we will be successful. If we are successful we will change the AGM date to coincide with this event as they could run together and make for a more interesting day. The proposed date of 22nd July for the AGM is therefore now provisional and could change.

NEW SOCIAL SHED – John Wilkinson

There is a visit tomorrow to the meeting shed at Railway Fields. In the meantime, Peter, Stavros, Yusef and Geoff are going to put in windows, donated by Peter Falzon, in the side of the current shed.

FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

17th June, 23rd September, 2nd December. AGM date to be confirmed.

A.O.B.

Excess Produce – Jill reported that the Victoria Stakes is requesting our spare produce on a regular basis to use in the pub and to give to a soup kitchen initiative in Muswell Hill. The collection point would be a container near the pub down the road. All felt that as this was so near to the site, it would be simple to use and worth trying, to see how much produce people actually did want to give away.

