

MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 17 June 2017

Present – Bob Hare, Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Jill Ellis, Peter Campbell, David Craig, John Wilkinson, Michael Harrison, Angela Silva -Jones

Apologies for absence – Pamela Jackson, Steve Shaw

Minutes of last meeting – Agreed

Matters Arising

Security Camera: This has given some good pictures. It needs to be relocated.

Water and Taps: Peter clarified that turning on the main water tap with a spanner works well.

Visit to Railway Fields' Shed: Everyone was impressed with the kit-built meeting shed on Railway Fields.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Bob Hare

Dehydrating Toilet: Angela has noticed that the fan works much better when the seat is up. John will take the seat lid off. Peter and Geoff are also taking an inch off the bottom of the door, to improve the air flow through the toilet.

CHADAHS: The CHADAHS AGM voted to wind up the Association as from May 15th and to divide the monies in the Account between the two sites. They proposed the yearly outing to be organised alternately by Shepherd's Hill and Ally Pally. The Show this year is cancelled but hopefully will continue next year organised by a Committee. Trading to be run by the two sites. The details of the new arrangements are still to be worked out. Ally Pally need to also vote at our AGM on the proposals which affect us. Gary Sycamore is hosting a BBQ and possibly a mini plant sale on his plot on the day of the cancelled show 9th September from 2pm onwards. All invited.

Top Shed: A vote of thanks to Peter Falzon for providing and preparing the lovely new window in the shed. Also thanks to Peter Campbell, Stavros Nicolaou, and Geoff Palmer for helping to install it. It has made a big difference to the ventilation and light in the shed.

Hedgehog Monitoring: The cameras have been removed now and we look forward to hearing about the results.

RHS: No reply to our request for a workshop on the day of the AGM

Plant and Produce Stall: Bob organised a table of plants left over from the Plant Sale in the car park with an honesty money box. This was very successful. Agreed we will continue this as a pilot scheme when a suitable table can be found. Tenants can donate their unwanted produce and plants to the table. Bob will empty the honesty box regularly.

AGM: As agreed the date will be 29th July at 4pm, with a possible bring-your-own-food get together afterwards from 6 pm or so. Alison will send out a 28 day notice of the date and time to tenants. The CHADAHS AGM proposals will need to be discussed and agreed by APAA at our AGM.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

Waiting List and Lettings: Waiting list 128 of which 11 are long list. New Tenants 4, Probationers 2, Vacant plots 1. The April inspection resulted in 7 Non Compliance Notices and one termination for a second NCN within three consecutive inspections. The next inspection will be in August.

Repairs and Maintenance: Peter and Stavros have been dealing with any plumbing problems.

Green maintenance: Alison was agreed a budget of £400 to employ Tim Laskey to do this work. Alison will go back to the Committee if any further funds are needed.

Tree Work: Agreed work to go ahead on removing half the hornbeam beside 24GLM, cutting back a smaller hornbeam and two protruding branches of other trees over plot 22 GLM. Dan Harriman has quoted £300 for this job and it may be an extra £50 or so for the cutting back of the other trees.

Plot 2 A.P. : The Community Pay Back Team Supervisor did not turn up for his meeting with Alison and Claire, Allotments Officer, to arrange to use his team to clear the plot. Alison will pursue this. There are other options, including using Veolia.

Rubbish Collections: There will not be one. We cannot stress strongly enough that Tenants should not collect rubbish on their plots or leave rubbish on a plot when they vacate it. If they do, the Council will hold the tenants responsible and bill them for the removal of the rubbish. The Allotments

Officer and Committee do inspect plots for accumulations of rubbish, as this is a breach of the Tenancy Agreement.

Council Repairs: A section of fence along the top path is to be replaced. The vandalised panel in the fence between us and Buckingham Lodge will be replaced. We are to have new gates and fencing at the bottom vehicle gate. We would like to see the details of the proposal for a new gate to ensure it is an improvement and retaining the pedestrian gate is important. Also, what kind of lock is proposed for the new gate? Many sites now have new keys which cannot be copied and require a £20.00 deposit. Tenants have to collect them in person and the Committee controls who has one. This would need to be discussed at the next AGM.

Communal Plot: John to organise a work party to weed the plot, sort out the plant pots and trays and store them securely. David to organise the communal use of the poly tunnel now that the plant sale is over. Pete will find the kit for mending the poly tunnel as there was one hole made last year. David will ensure all use cane tops or bottles to protect the plastic. Annie has planted up the front of the plot with veg for the use of the Cafe and Geoff is planting gourds.

Litter at bottom gate: Sally volunteered to try and keep this cleared on a regular basis.

Water use: Tenants are leaving hoses on paths permanently and this is a hazard. Also hoses should never be left on unattended or used excessively. We need remind that sprinklers are not permitted in our local rules which were drawn up and voted on at the last AGM. Tenants need to inform any helpers on their plots of the local rules. Any tenant using a helper on a regular basis needs to inform Alison.

Allotments Forum: Proposing a 75% increase in rents to cover the costs of running the allotments and a dedicated Allotments Officer.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Steve Shaw

Steve is away but has already submitted the end of year accounts. Thanks so much to Steve for these. The CHADAHS financial resolutions will need to be ratified at our AGM. Hopefully this will not involve any change to our Constitution.

PLANT SALE - Peter Campbell

This was a very successful day. Many thanks to the team who propagated plants and potted on, and to those who provided plants of their own, including Annie, Michael, Steve, David, Pete, Bob, Stavros, Jill, Sally and many more. Bob and Angela organised the pots and the plant protection boats on the communal plot and Bob propagated Colin's Chrysanthemums! Many thanks to Jim and Ros for letting us use their greenhouse and also to Geoff for the use of his shed for potting on. The plants survived the difficult slow start to the season and three nights of frost in April. Thanks also to all the volunteers on the day and it was good to see some new tenants helping as well. Several people were there from the crack of dawn to the end and lots of other people helped at various stages during the day. 40% of the plant profits were taken before the day at the Sunday plant sales and over all the plant sales and Cafe sales were up on last year. Pete felt we should have the sale a couple of weeks earlier next year, and this could also replace June's Cafe.

A very considerable vote of thanks to Peter Campbell for organising the growing and tending of the plants and pulling it all together on the day. Pete will send out an email on the news group thanking everyone for their help.

THE BEE PLOT – David Craig

The North London Bee-keepers Association have submitted a proposal to APAA to run the Bee Plot with David and Rowland on the same basis as before. They propose setting up an Apiary and maintaining it whilst offering some training in bee keeping to tenants and outsiders. The proposal was agreed subject to Alison also submitting this to the Council for their approval. When agreed, David will send out an invitation to any tenants who also want to be involved in this project.

AOB

Bottom Gate: Pete and Geoff will mend the hook that holds the bottom of the gate open. **Date of Next Meetings:** AGM - 29th July at 4pm **Committee Meetings** - 23rd September, 2nd December