

## **MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 2.12.17**

**Present** – Bob Hare, Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Jill Ellis, John Wilkinson, Michael Harrison, Pamela Jackson, Christine Heath, David Craig, Peter Campbell, Steve Shaw

**Apologies for absence** – Annie Elliott- Evans, Angela Sylva -Jones

**Minutes of last meeting** – Agreed

**Matters Arising** – Peter has bought an apple crusher and apple press for APAA. We need somewhere to store these. Peter has sent out an email asking if anyone has a space to house this equipment. The total cost of both was £493.00.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT – Bob Hare**

**Bee Plot:** A very successful official opening of the Bee Plot. Congratulations to the North London Bee keepers Association for clearing and sorting the plot and establishing their hives, and thanks for inviting us to the opening. The Ally Pally Garden Centre has donated gardening supplies used on the plot and the Manager of the Garden Centre attended the opening.

**Hedgehog Talk:** Chris Carbone and his research assistant Rachel gave a talk about Chris's research project on hedgehogs on the site involving wildlife cameras. The research has revealed that we are a valuable 'hot spot' for hedgehogs. Chris suggested a night time safari for interested tenants using heat sensitive cameras in the Grove next year when the weather warms up. Jessica Mckoen from the Hedgehog Preservation Society came to the talk and also offered some advice and information on encouraging hedgehogs into our allotments and gardens. It was agreed that Sally will send the £15.00 fee to join the Association on behalf of APAA. Bob has a photo of the attendees for the website. Thanks to Sally for organising this event.

**Give and Take Table:** This table outside the Trading Shed is for sharing produce and plants and has allowed the distribution of lots of fruit, particularly from Alison. It is working well and has not attracted too much rubbish.

**Plot 39D A.P:** Angela has borrowed several loads of recycling from this plot to the communal plot and she has also offered to burn the two dilapidated sheds. Thanks very much to Angela.

**Plot 2 A.P.:** At Alison's request, Bob has written to Alex Fraser asking if we could defer our main (vehicle) gate replacement and use the money to clear Plot 2 A.P.

**Rubbish:** The Council no longer collect rubbish from the site so this is an ongoing problem. For instance, there was picnic waste dumped on the left hand side of the Trading Shed. We will ask any willing tenants with cars to take the bags of rubbish on the communal plot to the recycling centre and offer to reimburse them for petrol etc.

**Gazebos:** Bob researching purchasing two more.

**CHADAHS:** There will be no show next year as no one has come forward to organise it. However, APAA is responsible for organising the outing next year. Steve, Sally and Pam have offered to be a sub-committee to do this with the addition of Annie who expressed an interest. Please send any ideas for places to visit to the sub-committee.

**Compost:** The Alexandra Park Team can not move the NLWA compost for us. Discussion about alternative sources of compost and also manure. Michael has a contact from the Golf Course Allotments for manure that he will send to Bob. Thompson's will deliver 70 bags of compost at a discount. Pete will look into the possibility of ordering this amount.

### **SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney**

**Keys:** Pete to order a supply of keys

**First Aid Training:** Alison has given Angela and Annie's details to Alex Fraser but has heard no more.

**Annual maintenance grant for 2017:** This has been received from the Council

**Rent Increase:** The letter announcing this increase caused great confusion! Hence all Alison's notices and emails. If a tenant already gets a reduction then they need do nothing.

To apply for a reduction for the first time, proof of eligibility for the reduction needs to be sent to the Office.

**Lettings:** Waiting list 130 including 16 on the long list. 2 new tenants including Bee Plot. 2 Probationers. 1 vacant plot (39D A.P.). 39BC – the termination is still under dispute.

**Repairs and Maintenance:**

Water: the water has been turned off for the winter

Green maintenance: Tim will be doing more work. Tommy has given permission for green waste to go on his bonfire heap.

Paving stones along top path: Tommy and Peter Falzon were involved in laying this very useful path. Pete will check what would be the most appropriate way we can thank them. Thanks also to Ron Griffith's son who brought the paving slabs over from the Garden Centre.

Tree work: Scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> October. This went off smoothly.

Council repairs: No news yet about the wooden fence and gate along the boundary between GLM and Alexandra Palace road.

Bottom gates: Many thanks to Geoff and Pete for mending the pedestrian gate. This was a tricky job. Pete will ask Tommy if he can help repair the other gate.

APAA Communal plot: this is an on-going project

Allotments Forum: No change! We don't know if the Allotments Officer job has been advertised yet.

BBC Filming: Thanks to Zoe for organising this. A film crew filmed an episode of the Tracey Ullman show on the allotments and paid us a fee of £450. Alison will write a letter of thanks.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Steve Shaw**

There is £4971 in the Current Account and £5611 in the Reserve Account. We have spent £1017.97 since the last meeting and our income has been £1477.41 which includes Trading shed plant sales, Haringey grant and BBC fee.

**TRADING SHED – Peter Campbell**

Tomorrow 3<sup>rd</sup> December will be the last day trading as CHADHAS. Kathy Riddell is carrying out a final stock take on Tuesday so that the CHADHAS stock and cash can be equally divided between our site and Shepherds Hill. CHADHAS had a complicated policy which involved different amounts of mark up for different produce in the Trading Shed ranging from 15% to 50%. Peter proposed we put a 20% mark up on all produce and review this at a later date. The honorarium paid the Trading Manager will stay the same and there will continue to be a £2.00 per year subscription to use the shed, including the non-tenant members. Peter will continue to use Horticultural Supplies for stock for now and will be responsible for paying in the takings. All agreed.

There will be reduced opening hours until mid February. Seed potatoes and onion sets have been ordered. Peter is planning a Potato day in February. Date to be confirmed.

**A.O.B.**

**New Year's Eve:** Due to health and safety concerns the road into the Palace will be closed on New Year's Eve. Normally we also restrict cars from the site but need we to consider the implications if any emergency vehicles need access.

**Apple Project:** The Orchard Project Charity have offered to work with APAA as part of their Orchard Restoration Project which is funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Peter arranged to meet them on site so they could survey our trees and draw up a 12 months plan of action. They counted the number of different fruit trees on the site and discovered fruit trees which are over 100 years old. They propose to run workshops on assessing, pruning and restoring trees, over the summer and winter, and run two Community days which could possibly tie in with our plant sales and BBQ. . Plot holders can train to become Orchard Leaders and Mentors. They will assess and label as many fruit trees as

possible, and add their expertise to our fruit pressing days. Much of their costs are covered by their own funding but they have asked us for a contribution of £400 which was agreed in the meeting. This seems an exciting opportunity to improve the health of our fruit trees and gain expertise in fruit tree growing and pruning amongst our plot holders. Peter has the full proposal from the Project.

**Top Shed Border:** Cathy Brogan has asked us to cut back and remove, if possible, the jasmine on the fence bordering her plot and the Top Shed plot. Peter and Alison will have a look at this.

**Plant Sale:** Our plant sale will be earlier this year, in the middle of May. Pete will adjust the sowing dates for the plants to allow for this. Please can all tenants who can, plan to grow some plants for the sale. Date in May to be confirmed. Christine suggested a bigger range of colourful flowers.

**COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2018** - 10 March, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 8<sup>th</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> December

**AGM** - 14<sup>th</sup> July

**BBQ** - 30<sup>th</sup> June