

MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 10.03.18

Present: Bob Hare, Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Jill Ellis, John Wilkinson, Pamela Jackson, David Craig, Peter Campbell, Steve Shaw, Annie Elliott- Evans

Apologies for absence : Angela Sylva -Jones, Michael Harrison, Peter Campbell

Minutes of last meeting : Agreed

Matters Arising :

Filming: Alison has written to Zoe to thank her for organising the filming on the site. Bob will ask the Palace to add us to the list of filming locations they provide to film companies looking for suitable sites. Michael is also looking to add us to a locations list for films.

Hedgehog Preservation Society: Ally Pally is now a member of this Society and Sally has put the information in the Top Shed.

Gazebo: Bob will research and buy a good quality gazebo to be used for site events.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Bob Hare

Clearing Plot 2 A.P. : Peter Campbell, Peter Falzon and Rob Griffiths have done a wonderful job clearing most of the site and they have separated the rubbish into piles on the edge of the plot. APAA does have Employee insurance and does on occasion pay people for one off projects and site maintenance. Bob has contacted several scrap merchants who would come and collect the scrap metal. There are two work parties planned on Sunday 18 and 25, at 11am – 1pm for volunteers to clear the rubbish in the two sheds on the plot. Alison will send round an Announce Email with the details. Bob has written to Alex Fraser telling him what has been done, what needs to be done and asking the Council to finish the job. The accumulation of rubbish on plots poses an enormous problem for the Site and we must find ways to stop it happening. We will have more pre-inspections to identify where there are problems, photograph the evidence and ask the Council for support for terminations when tenants do not deal with their own rubbish. There is an item in the Tenants Handbook which states there will be Council rubbish collections from the site, which is no longer true and should be removed.

Communal Plot: Alison will contact Graham Thompson who kindly took away some bags of rubbish to the Council Dump, and ask him if he will accept payment for the disposal costs. The Communal Plot will be used to grow on plants for the plant sale, followed by pumpkin and squash plants for the Cafe.

Potato Day: Thanks to Peter and all his helpers and to the Cafe team for making this such a successful day.

Seaweed Fertiliser: Thanks to Rachel the Manager at Ally Pally Garden Centre who has offered us some Seaweed Fertiliser to sell in the Trading Shed.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

First Aid Training: This will take place on a Tuesday at Bruce Castle so Angela and Annie should be notified, as they have volunteered to complete the training.

Rent Invoices: These have now been sent out.

Allotments Officer: Our Allotments Officer, Clare Pappalardo is still off sick. There is no news on the appointment of an allotments officer.

Lettings: Waiting list 130 but I shall be taking off 8 long list people who did not renew their interest in January. I am also chasing up those at the top of the list.

There are 2 new tenants and 1 probationary tenancy on 39D A.P., and 1 vacant plot. No decision as yet, on plot 39BC.

Repairs and Maintenance:

Green maintenance: Tim has finished and been paid

Council repairs: Alex Fraser emailed the contractors about a date for the work on the wooden fence and gate along the boundary between GLM and Alexandra Palace Park and the new vehicle gate but has received no reply so far.

Main Gate: Does this still need some welding?

Fencing: A section of fence beside what used to be the third gate needs attention. Alison will ask Peter to have a look at this.

Security Camera: John will research a battery charged by photovoltaic cells for the security camera. There could be a possibility of this battery providing lighting for the shed as well.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Steve Shaw

Just over £8000 in the Current Account and £6,500 in the Business Account. We have spent £260 on green maintenance. The expenditure on the Trading Shed stock so far is £1,270 and £190 on Plant Sale seeds. Peter now pays the Trading Shed proceeds straight into the Bank Account. We have received £5000 from the winding up of CHADAHS, and there is £900 from the Cafe.

Steve proposed an increase of £25 to Alison's Honorary payment of £75 so she will now receive a yearly sum of £100. Agreed. Bob was reminded to claim for his expenditure as Chairman and for setting up and maintaining the website.

Future expenditure: There is a plan to extend the Top Shed and we have enough money to do this. In the future a new shed could be built but this would cost considerably more and involve fund raising. We need to keep money in hand for emergencies. Shelving in the polytunnel would be useful – David to research the best options for this.

PLANT SALE

Peter has proposed putting the date back to June 3rd as it has been so cold and sowing of seeds has had to be delayed. Agreed

BBQ

Peter not available on the 30th June and the Allotment Calendar becoming quite busy. A proposal to have the BBQ after the AGM on July 14th was agreed, with either a more informal arrangement whereby people bring their own food to cook, or another more organised event with tickets and food provided.

ORCHARD PROJECT

Sub-committee as agreed last meeting – Peter, John, Steve and Alison. John is contacting the Project about their mapping of the site.

ALLOTMENTS OUTING

The Outing Sub-committee of Pamela, Annie, Steve and Sally have met and will be researching a possible venue in the near future. The trip will on July 22nd and probably need to be subsidised by £250 to £300 from APAA funds. Agreed

PROPOSED RHS Visit 23rd JUNE

We were offered an RHS Question and Answer session on the site, at rather short notice, if we could guarantee 40 participants. Alison has received 30 or so affirmative answers to her email advertising the proposed event. Agreed to go ahead, although there is a possibility that the RHS Team will not still be available to us on that date. There would be seating under the gazebos and teas provided.

NGS OPEN AFTERNOON

Bob wondered if we could apply to join this scheme this summer. All agreed a good idea for another year as this summer already quite busy with events.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS FOR TOP SHED

Nick Hawkins has offered us some stained glass windows for the extension to the Top Shed and it was agreed we gratefully accept these.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Sat 16th June, Sat 14th July (AGM), 8 September, 1st December. Plant Sale 3rd June
Please note changes to June Committee Meeting date and to Plant Sale date.

A.O.B.

Committee Members: It is always good to have new Committee members and we shall be asking people at the AGM if they would like to join. Discussion about the possibility of swapping round some of the jobs on the Committee or appointing deputies.

Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee: John is our representative on this committee but in the future this Committee could be dissolved in it's present form and the current interest groups, such as ourselves, be consulted in a different way.

Dehydrating Toilet: Unfortunately John can see that again this is not drying out as quickly as it should. He is going to check, using a dye, whether there is seepage into the tank from ground water through a seam in the plastic. He will contact the allotments in Finchley who also have two of these toilets installed to check whether they have had similar problems. John has various ideas how to improve the evaporation of the liquids in the tank. He will also contact the toilet manufacturer again. It will be necessary to close the toilet for a period and John will send round an email warning tenants of this.

Objects of the Association: Signed by those present.

Meeting venue: Many thanks indeed to Steve and Sally Shaw for hosting our meeting and particular thanks to Sally for the home made cake and biscuits!!

