

**MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE MEETING 8 September 2018**

Present: Peter Campbell (Chair), Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Jill Ellis, Angela Silva Jones, Pam Jackson, Annie Elliott Evans, David Craig

Apologies for absence : John Wilkinson, Steve Shaw (Bob to ring Christine Heath re her email)

Minutes of last meeting : Agreed

Matters Arising :

Filming: Bob will invite Alexandra Palace to visit our site to look at the potential it has for filming locations. We would be paid if a film company used our site. Bob has drawn up some guidelines for the filming and will send this round to the committee. Sally and Alison will join Bob on the site tour.

RHS Q & A: This event went really well. Thanks especially to the Cafe Team and to Alison who did most of the organisation.

Dehydrating Toilet: We need an update on the state of the toilet from John when available.

Security camera: Bob has discovered the camera does not need a 12v battery as the rechargeable batteries currently used last for 9 months. We just need a second set of batteries.

Apple pressing: Not enough apples this year for a series of apple pressing days but Pete will send round an email suggesting tenants contact him if they have apples they want to press.

Top Shed renovation: To be discussed

Pots for the plant sale: Not enough pots remain, and we have already agreed to buy a supply of square pots of the necessary size.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

General items: The new allotments officer has been appointed and will start at the end of the month, but we are not clear yet when site inspections will resume.

Lettings: The waiting list is 102. I have taken off the long list people who did not renew their interest as asked and checked the numbering on the spread sheet. There are two unconfirmed new tenants, Natalie on 51 A.P. and Sara on 31B A.P. Three probationary tenancies – David and Jocelyn on 15 A.P., Kayte and Grace on 43 G.L.M., Benjamin on 39A A.P. There is one vacant plot ready to let (10B A.P.). Angela has swapped to 39BC A.P. Plot 2 A.P. still has rubbish on it but John from Veolia has promised to clear it without charge. Alison has contacted him to arrange access. Two tenants are disputing their terminations.

Repairs and Maintenance: Green maintenance: Alison to discuss the green maintenance with Tim and check with him how much work he wants in the future. It's too early to trim the top path and it just needs some blackberry shoots cutting back if anyone is walking along there with a pair of secateurs. There are some nebulous areas on the allotments which neighbouring tenants do not obviously have responsibility for but they need maintaining. We will accept the offer of a petrol strimmer which is no longer needed by a tenant.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Steve Shaw

The current status of our bank accounts: Current Account £11,998 (£400 paid to the Orchard Project) and £5,613 in the Reserve Account.

TRADING SHED – Peter Campbell

There is a predicted shortage of seed potatoes and onion sets because of the weather. Peter will order a selection of the varieties most popular with tenants in time for a February Potato Day on the site, but some may not be available. Bob knows of an alternative potato supplier if needed.

MAIN GATE

The new vehicle gate is not as wide as the old one. We requested a 'like for like' gate and assumed it would be the same size. It seems just wide enough for an ambulance, for example, but the truck delivering the manure recently ended up with a scraped side and the delivery van for the Trading Shed would have difficulty also. A fire engine has not been able to get up our road in recent times because of the state of the road so the width of the gate is not the issue, if we had a fire. Peter and Alison will convey our concerns to the Council and if they cannot improve the width of the gate, Tommy has a possible solution but this would need funding by APAA. The new padlocks have been difficult to open and close but are getting easier with wear. The vehicle gate padlock however does still present problems and 2 new padlocks will be sought from the Council, as the top gate also needs a new padlock, and we need to find a welder to put them on. Alison has concerns the fence is not secure where the new fence joins the old. The new fence also needs netting to prevent litter getting through. There is suitable netting on the communal plot which Peter offered to use for this purpose.

ORCHARD PROJECT – Peter Campbell

There were two workshops with a focus on the pruning of trees in the prunus family (plum, damson, cherry, peach, apricot, etc.). on June 21st of 2hrs each involving 12 people, run by Bob

Feverfew from Norfolk who was very informative and experienced. There were also two workshops on 1st September on summer pruning of apples and pears which a total of 14 people attended, run by Jack from the Orchard Project and Peter. The feedback from both days was very positive. Peter and Jack are planning a small event on the day of the next Cafe, Sunday 7th October to share ways of enjoying allotment produce all year round (freezing, baking, drying and preserves). They will set up an extra table (or two) for a display of foods that plotholders have made from their allotment produce. The aim of the display is to promote the oral sharing of ideas for recipes and approaches. This event will be open to the wider community. Alison has also emailed St. Mary's school about an event for primary school children focusing on ecology on the site. Annie and Pam have also offered to help with this workshop.

COMMUNAL PLOT

We need a work party to deal with the weeds around the loo and the polytunnel. The raised beds need digging out. Bob will organise a Doodle Poll to look for a good date. Thanks to Bob and Angela for sorting and clearing the plant sale pots from the site and thanks to Bob for digging out tons of bind weed with some help from Natalie. Peter to arrange the removal of the plumbing to the polytunnel which is not needed and which might freeze and crack.

A tenant who has voluntarily given up her plot will be given access to a small strip of the communal plot. Discussion at the meeting about the size of the plot and the terms of this arrangement. Planting a tree, for instance, would not be helpful, and there needs to be room for the Plant Sale fleece 'boats' and pots etc.

POLYTUNNEL

Thanks to Angela who raised the need to weed and clean the polytunnel and agreed to do this.

WATER LEAKS

During the spring and early summer 2018, there were recurrent problems of water running down from GLM44 (Terri Vanson's plot) through GLM43 and then AP39D and especially the path alongside AP39A, sometimes even streaming across the road. During June Tom Amooty did some exploratory digging on GLM44 which seemed to indicate that the water source for Terri's pond was drainage tiles designed to distribute surface water from houses in Springfield Ave. In early July Peter contacted Thames Water about a suspected mains leak. A Thames Water technician who came to investigate on 10 July decided that it could not be a mains water leak because water flowing into/through Terri's pond was not steady and continuous. He referred the problem to Thames Water's seepage division, which led to another Thames Water technician visiting on 7 August. He and Peter C drained the pond on G.L.M.44 and found that water just trickled in, probably from the surrounding soil. Peter inspected the pond every morning and evening for the week following; refilling of the pond was consistent with rainfall that week, no other source. To date the water level in the pond has risen only to the level of the subsoil clay and there is no evidence of significant water running through the plots below. At the meeting Peter suggested that he now contacts Thames Water to say that we have detected no evidence of seepage. If the problem recurs next year we will have to restart investigations. This was agreed.

THE ALLOTMENT ROAD

The weather, heavy rains, drought and frost have contributed to the damage to the road. It is believed that the whole site is not entirely stable and when surveyed many year's ago it was found to be creeping downhill. The road has no supports either side. Claire, our previous allotments officer was under the impression the Council did not have a responsibility to provide vehicular access to the site. We will ask Steve Shaw to contact some contractors for quotes to repair the road, so that we have some idea of the cost. A new tenant, Richard, also could be consulted, as he has some expertise in this area.

CHADAHS WEBSITE

At the last CHADAHS meeting it was proposed that the website should be added onto the APAA website. This has not proved feasible. Bob has already paid the £30.00 cost to keep the website for the next two years, and will ask Shepherd's Hill for half the cost. It will then be allowed to lapse.

DATA PROTECTION

This does not appear to be an issue for our Association, as we once thought it might. No further action.

THE ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – John Wilkinson

John not available at the meeting for an update.

SALES

Bob has sold several items which were no needed on the site for £65 on Ebay

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Saturday 1st December at 2pm at 19 Clyde Road, N22 7AD. Sally will send out a reminder of the date of the next Committee meeting a couple of weeks before