

MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 1 December 2018

Present: Bob Hare (Chair), Peter Campbell, Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Jill Ellis, Angela Silva Jones, Pam Jackson, Annie Elliott Evans, David Craig, Steve Shaw, John Wilkinson.

Apologies for absence : None

Minutes of last meeting : Agreed

Matters Arising :

Dick Tomlinson: Discussion about a fitting tribute to Dick on the allotment. Sally reminded the Committee that we still have £50.00 in the Cafe funds for a rose in remembrance of Pete Oliver to grow over the Top Shed. The planting of the rose has been delayed by the plans for the Top Shed. We could consider a similar planting for Dick.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

General items: Emi Mehmet is now in post as the Haringey Allotments Co-ordinator. Alex Fraser is still in overall charge. The administration has improved considerably.

Lettings: The waiting list is still 102 because the number of those taken off is matched by new names added. The two unconfirmed new tenants in the last report, Natalie on 51AP, Sara on 31B A.P. are now confirmed. There are 3 unconfirmed new tenants – David and Jocelyn on 15A A.P., Kayte and Grace on 43 GLM, Benjamin on 39A A.P. There is 1 probationer, Sophie Lawton on 10B A.P. and two vacant plots – 39GIM and 2A A.P. One plot is under dispute. Tacim Polat will transfer from 24A Alexandra Park to 2B A.P. on 1.1.19.

Repairs and Maintenance:

Plot 2 A.P. : All cleared by Veolia, who did an excellent job, except for the metal. Bob is contacting a contractor to take the metal away.

Council Repairs - vehicle gate: Thanks to Peter for adding netting to prevent litter getting through but there are still gaps either side of the new fence which could be climbed through.

Woodchip container: Our new woodchip container is splendid.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Steve Shaw

The current status of our bank accounts: Current Account £13,000 including the increased Haringey grant of £1695, and £5,600 in the Reserve Account. The Trading shed sales are £3940 so far this year which shows a profit margin of 7.5%. Many thanks to Peter and the Trading Shed Team.

TRADING SHED – Peter Campbell

Potato Day will be 17th February 2019. Peter proposed changing the name of the Trading Shed to The Community Shop. Agreed unanimously.

MAIN GATE

The new main gate entrance is narrower than the original gate and too narrow for delivery vehicles for the Trading Shed. Despite our requests the Council are unable to rectify the problem. Options to widen the main gate were discussed. The most feasible options are:

1. Keep the Pedestrian gate and gate posts where they are. Move the right hand main gate post (as you look up into the allotments from the driveway) further to the right, to it's original position. Reuse the present gate and hang a new narrow gate on the right hand side gate post to fill the gap. The two gates would be chained together with a padlock and with sliding bolts into holes in the ground added where they meet, to keep them secure.

2. Keep the pedestrian gate where it is and move the right hand gate post of the main gate to it's original position, as in option 1. Sell or part exchange (if possible) the existing main gate and buy double gates chained together in the middle with a padlock with sliding bolts in the ground to keep them securely in place.

Both options leave the Pedestrian gate on the left hand side as this seems the safest position. A further option of extending the present gate by welding on another width of gate was felt to make the gate too heavy. The Council contractors have already returned once to

adjust the present gate which had dropped and was difficult to open and close. The problem has returned and they are being asked yet again to come and make further adjustments. Angela to make drawings of the two options and Angela and John to research contractors who could be asked for quotes to carry out the work, including the subcontractor who carried out the original work for the Council. There is some urgency to widen the gate as the Community Shop will require deliveries before too long, in the New Year.

ROAD

At the last Allotment Forum Alex Fraser said he thought that the Council was responsible for the maintenance of the allotment road. However, the road is in urgent need of repair and even if the Council agreed they would not be able to carry out the work promptly. We propose to attempt some interim repairs ourselves in three phases, in the hope that the Council will agree in the future to a radical repair. This would probably involve mending the concrete base of the road and resurfacing, all of which is beyond our skill set and finances.

1. John and Steve have filled some of the worst cracks in the tarmac and sealed them, so that water will not pool in the fissures and freeze in the winter causing further cracking. This was a pilot project to see how effective it was and more would need to be done next year. Many thanks to Steve and John for carrying out this work. But this is only a holding operation even if it works and not a long term solution.

2. We need to widen the road where obstacles such as hedges, a shed and water tanks have encroached over the years on the margins of the road, causing a hazard to wider vehicles and forcing them to swerve over the edge of the road. The hedges can be pruned back or partly removed and the shed and water tanks moved back. Negotiations are underway to complete this work with the cooperation of tenants and help from Stavros and Usef.

3. The road originally had retaining granite blocks at the side of some of the road and over the years these have been removed and used for other purposes. In addition soil has been dug away from the edges or fallen away and this has added to the disintegration of the road. Where cars are parked at right angles on plots, it is clear the car manoeuvres have caused further damage to the roadside, particularly above 15A A.P.. Tenants are asked to practice parallel parking to the road. We agreed a pilot scheme to shore up the side of the road in the worst places using 'in house' expertise and materials where possible. Those tenants whose plots will be affected will be fully consulted and informed. Steve and Peter to organise this work.

Alison will ask the Council for permission to carry out the urgent work needed ourselves. At the AGM tenants will be asked to vote on additions to our local rules to protect the road for the future by a) not siting any obstacles or planting within 50cm of the road and b) not digging soil away from the side of the road.

PONDS

In the Council Tenants agreement, Tenants agree under 10.18 (b) 'To ensure that all water receptacles do not present a hazard'. The Committee took a unanimous decision to ask the Allotments Officer that he should advise the owner of a newly dug deep pond on the edge of a communal path in an area that is not officially part of the plot, that it needs to be filled in. Many tenants have ponds for wildlife on their plots and all the ponds on the site will be surveyed at the next inspection by the Allotments Officer and advice can be given if needed about the safest areas on the plot for a pond. At the AGM new local guidelines will be drawn up for a) wildlife ponds and b) for the use of communal areas on the edges of plots where historically sheds have been built but which are not within the boundary of the plot. These areas should not be cultivated or used for any permanent fixtures except sheds with permission, or used for the storage of rubbish.

RUBBISH ON PLOTS

There are still piles of rubbish developing on and around sheds and plots. We need to continue to include accumulations of rubbish in the Inspections by the Allotments Officer and ensure action is taken when necessary.

GREEN MAINTENANCE

Tim has done a thorough job of cutting back the top path. Angela is happy to have this green waste to burn on her plot but only in the Autumn.

PLANT SALE – Peter Campbell

The provisional date for the Plant Sale is May 19th. David offered to help Peter with watering and frost protection.

COMMUNAL PLOT

The work party on the Communal Plot was not well supported. Bob, Angela and Usef did a lot of work emptying the containers, weeding and clearing around the poly tunnel. Bob has worked on the plot, digging and clearing the bindweed. He has planted a green manure crop of field beans. Anita and Natalie have also helped with work on the plot. Many thanks indeed to Bob and Angela for all their work. Other work parties will be arranged, possibly on the first Sunday of the month before the Cafe. The containers by the Poly tunnel need filling with bark chips which will rot down into soil. If any tenant is wheeling bark chip to their plot, please add some to the containers on your way.

The Committee propose to pave the area by the side of the Poly tunnel and site a bench there, to make a communal sitting area for all to use and enjoy the view.

CAMERA BATTERY

John agreed to apply to the Muswell Hill Ward Budget for money to install a 12V battery for the security camera and for solar powered lighting for the Top Shed and The Community Shop.

ORCHARD PROJECT UPDATE – Peter Campbell

There have been two events since the last meeting. 'Harvest to Plate' on October 7 organised by Peter and a visit from pupils from St. Mary's School, Hornsey, organised by Peter, Alison Annie and Pam on 16th October. The Harvest to Plate event attracted a lot of interest and thanks especially to Reisa and Fadima for bringing their produce. The St. Mary's pupils all seemed to really enjoy the projects set up for them on their visit to the allotments, which included composting and tree bark rubbing and Pam will contact the school for some feedback.

There will be winter pruning workshops in February and March 2019.

DEHYDRATING TOILET – John Wilkinson

John has contacted our Toilet manufacturers again and they will let John know the names of contractors who might be able to offer us a yearly contract to empty the toilet.

A.O.B

We need to think of an appropriate way to thank Veolia for all their help in clearing Plot 2 A.P. They carried out this work as a community project and did not charge us. John to enquire from Veolia who we need to address our thanks to and an allotment calendar for each of the workers involved is one idea.

DATES FOR THE NEXT MEETINGS

March 2nd, June 8th, September 7th, December 7th all at 2pm

AGM – July 20th