

MINUTES OF ALLY PALLY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING 2 March 2019

Present: Bob Hare (Chair), Sally Chubb, Alison Liney, Jill Ellis, Annie Elliott Evans, Steve Shaw, John Wilkinson.

Apologies for absence : Peter Campbell, Angela Silva Jones, David Craig, Pamela Jackson

Minutes of last meeting: Agreed. As always, thanks to Sally who writes the minutes.

Matters Arising :

Veolia: John is thanking Veolia on our behalf for clearing Plot 2AP. Bob will publicise the work on Twitter and has some photos of the work which may help identify the workers for Veolia and which he will add to our website.

CHAIRS REPORT - Bob Hare

Solar lighting: Well done John for doing the application for lighting for the Top Shed and Allotment Shop and an energy source for the security camera and for the convincing email needed at the last minute.

Metal collection: In total, metal from Plot 2AP, and quite a lot from the site, added up to 4 full, large van loads. Despairing of the unreliable company who failed to turn up, we found a Tottenham company who were keen to collect and twice turned up on time to the minute. Alison and I will keep their details..

Orchard Project: Thanks to Peter for liaising with the Orchard Project and everyone who wanted to attend. The sessions were excellent. The Orchard Project has been a great success and very good value for money.

Shed reduction: Thanks to Peter and Geoff who reduced the size of a shed on the edge of the allotment road which had been causing deterioration of the road on the opposite side, as cars and vans veered over to avoid the shed.

Plumbing: Thank you to Stavros and Usef for plumbing repairs and for turning the water back on after the winter.

Potato Day: Thanks to Peter for organising this very successful event. Thanks to Suzy and all the other helpers including Pamela who organised the children's activities, and all the Cafe Team and those who made cakes.

Road: Thanks to John and Steve for repairing the edge of the road opposite a plot where the road was disintegrating due to cars turning and veering onto that side of the road. The repair with 2 poles and gravel boards filled with concrete, was a successful first attempt and can be extended to other vulnerable parts of the road. Steve and John have already discussed with the tenants adjoining these sections of the road what needs to be done.

Possible communal tools scheme: The auger bought for the above project could become part of a pool of communal tools, kept in the Trading Shed and loaned out to tenants with a realistic returnable deposit reflecting the cost of the tool. To be discussed with Peter.

SITE SECRETARY'S REPORT – Alison Liney

Lettings: The waiting list is 88. I have taken off 9 Long List people who failed to renew in January '19 as requested. There are 3 probationers – Cressida Foster on Plot 2A The Nursery from 10.3.19, Zubeyda Ortac on Plot 2A Alexandra Park, Mehmet and Sevim on 9A Alexandra Park. One new tenant, Sophie on plot 10B Alexandra Park. There are 3 vacant plots 39GLM, 8B AP, 24A AP.

Borders: An unclear border between two tenants has been referred to the Allotments Officer to look at in April at the inspection.

Security: Thanks to Peter Campbell for dealing with the break-in in the early hours of 19th February. I have sent round a list of the few tools left behind. No one has responded. Bob will have a look at a possible weak spot on the border which needs some extra mesh and a tenant has reported signs of people climbing in near her plot and the fence needs repair. Steve will have a look at this with Alison.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Steve Shaw

Current Account - £9540, Reserve Account £5600. The modifications to the gate cost £3100.

GATE

We will ask Adam for quotes to replace the shooting bolt and the drop bolt on the pedestrian gate which do not function well.

PLANT SALE 2019

There is an extra stove available for the Plant Sale. The top path and the side of the Top Shed will be roped off before the beginning of the Sale to prevent pre-sales. Bob will invite local Counsellors to the Plant Sale and also to a monthly Cafe. Steve suggested offering tours around the allotments on the day, which seemed a good idea in principle but would depend on the availability of volunteers to organise the tours. Alison will look at whether we would be covered by insurance for such tours.

COMMUNAL PLOT

We propose to use the communal plot, as last year, for the fleece 'boats' for the plant sale plants and then plant pumpkins for sale and for use in the Cafe. Bob and Angela have laid paving slabs at the end of the plot for the communal seating area. Sally will send out a news email to see if anyone has a spare sturdy bench they don't need for this area, before we consider buying. Thanks very much to Graham for the paving slabs. There will be a work party on the communal plot, and poly tunnel and loo area every 1st Sunday of the month for an hour before the Cafe, meeting in the car park. Bob will send out an email advertising the sessions. Very many thanks to Bob and Angela for all their hard work on the communal plot.

AGM – July 20th

Any additions to the Local Rules need to be debated at the AGM and notice of these changes need to be sent round to tenants beforehand. We can finalise the draft wording at the June 8th Committee Meeting. The additions are:

- No trimming or cutting of hedges on plot boundary without consulting neighbour.
- Communal areas e.g. at end of plots often on site boundaries – restricting use to sheds, with no cultivation or storing of rubbish.
- Ponds – guidelines to be drawn up by Bob and Sally
- Verges adjacent to allotment road need to be maintained to provide support to the road and avoid slippage. No digging or bank removal to be allowed within 60cm of the road edge.
- Branches and foliage of hedges adjacent to road must be kept back 60cm from the road edge.

THE ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – John Wilkinson

There is a new management plan for the grounds. John is meeting Mark Evison the Park's Manager to have a look round our site. We will approach the new Haringey Biodiversity Officer Ed Santry to see if he would come and talk to us. He said at a meeting recently that he is hoping to draw up biodiversity guidelines for Allotment sites, which are local sites of scientific interest.

DEHYDRATING TOILET – John Wilkinson

John will be checking the liquid levels of the dehydrating loo to see how urgently it would need a pumping out.

A.O.B

Recent break-in: What further action can we take to make the site more secure? Motion sensor lights? Another CCTV camera? John to research.

DATES FOR THE NEXT MEETINGS

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

AGM – July 20th