

RGS Committee Meeting – Sunday 4th December 2016 at 9am

1. Jackie Savage (Chair) welcomed two new members Mariangela Renshaw and Brad Sanderson to the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Mike Cooper, Shirley Gillbe and Janis Humberstone. She asked for corrections to the address list and the updated version is attached to these minutes.

Present were: -

Liz Chrominska	Pat Dark	Helen Finch	Ali Linton (minutes)
Carol Martinez	Georgina O'Reilly	Mariangela Renshaw	Brad Sanderson
Gill Tamsett	Greg Willcox		

2. To note the agreed minutes of the meeting on Sunday 6th November 2016

The minutes agreed ex-committee were signed as a true record.

3. Matters arising

i. St. John Ambulance First Aid Course

JS will contact Charles Gillbe (The Putney Society) in the New year.

Action: JS

ii. Fences and Gates

Geraldine Kelly (Enable) can't see any reason why we cannot use the 18" between the plots and the fences to erect a means of obstructing entry providing it doesn't touch the fence. This matter will be dealt with in the spring.

Action: JS

iii. Site 2 Herb Bed and benches

Work is starting on the herb bed this week and the benches will be refurbished when the weather improves. It was agreed that bee friendly plants would be considered.

iv. Water

JS thanked those responsible for turning off the water just before the first frosts!

v. Apple tree on site 3

This will be pruned on Sunday 15th (not 8th) January. JS agreed to do notices and emails after Christmas. He is happy to prune other trees (at a cost) and give advice to other plot holders.

Post meeting: A plot holder advised that we need to apply for permission to prune the tree as it is in a conservation area. Application made on 5/12/16.

Action: JS

vi. Rubbish collection

Everything must be bagged and it will be collected the week beginning 5th December.

vii. Report from the London Allotments meeting

It was agreed that the minutes would be circulated when available.

Action: GWT

4. Chair's report

i. AGM

JS thanked everyone for making the event such a success. It went well with about 45 attending. Justine Greening has offered to help us in any way. Next year we will use the lower hall for the meeting and the upper hall for refreshments. It was agreed that next year we would pre-circulate the reports and ask for questions on the night OR present a precis on the night with the aim of finishing the business part of the meeting at 8pm. The agreed Draft Minutes will be posted on the website.

ii. Lease / Charity update.

Js reported tha on 28 Nov Draft 8 of the Lease was sent to Council and Enable with a draft Letter of Tenancy Agreement and Rules (these have been drawn up using the old RGS Rules, the old WBC Tenancy Agreement and then other allotments rules that we have gathered along the way. These rules can be changed – it is just to get the next step started and we had to send

them as WBC need to be assured that we will manage our own disputes and that no plots will be able to be inherited (for example). The committee expressed an interest in seeing the draft rules and JS agreed to circulate them for general discussion. **Action: JS**

iii. Report on Site Manager's meeting at Enable

In SG's absence JS drew the committee's attention to the following points: -

i. They will offer Better Plotting (or Improving Plots) on a weekend day. Then plot holders could opt to meet the "judge" and just get advice and / or get scored. It was suggested that we have our own "site champions" who can advise plot holders.

ii. Allotment Challenge **22nd January 2017** – JS agreed to email all plot holders after Xmas put the notices up on the notice boards. **Action: JS**

5. Allotment Secretaries' reports

Site 2

Plot lettings - none

November Plot Inspection

The plot inspection was on Nov 8th. Only one plot caused serious concern. This plot has been leased for less than a year in which time the plot holder has had 2 letters for a serious lack of cultivation. He recently informed me he had been ill during October and assured me that he was now well enough to work his plot although this has not been done. Shirley Gillbe spoke to Geraldine Kelly about this case and we were advised not to start the eviction procedure due to his declared illness. The plot will be inspected on March 1 and if no work has been done the eviction procedure will be carried out then.

Large, overgrown shrubs were identified on two plots and both plot holders have agreed to have these hard pruned.

Two dangerous paths were identified where the path was considerably higher than the adjacent plot and the path sloped away. A member has quoted for the work to each path including materials and this has been accepted. The work will be carried out on Saturday 17th December. The plotheolders concerned have been notified.

AGM -matter arising

There is a collapsed fence, the house is privately rented out and managed by an agent. A letter has gone to the agent and to the owner. As yet there has been no response.

Wood chip

Woodchip will be delivered over the next few days.

Site 3

Lettings:

Plot 59B 2.5 rods has been let.

Plot 61 has been split. It was a 5 rod. The current tenant retains 61B (2 rods) and 61A (3 rods) is about to be let.

Plot inspection:

2 paths were judged to be hazardous. The rectifying work will be carried out once we are satisfied with the outcome on site 2.

6. Trading Secretary's report

GWT reported: -

The Store closes today and reopens on 8 January. Stock levels will be checked and any orders needed will be placed the first week in January.

GWT, JH and JS will meet on Weds 6 Dec to go over the pricing policy and then bring that to the Store Sub Committee before 8 Jan when the store will re-open.

The issue that trading was down this year was brought up at the AGM. Our members had suggested that we should advertise the Store more and seek more local people to become members. There was some discussion regarding opening hours and a recommendation that we could sell flower bulbs such as daffodils.

The Committee agreed that no change to the opening times would be made until it has been discussed by the Store sub-committee and agreed by the committee. GWT thought that most of the helpers preferred to leave at 12md in good time for Sunday lunch.

A date and helpers for a spring clean of the Store will be agreed by email. **Action: GWT**

7. Treasurer's report

There is nothing to report since the AGM.

8. Bulletin Editor's Report

PD reported that the new printers take longer and the December Bulletin will be in the boxes before Christmas. The copy date is 18th January for 5th February. She always welcomes articles and recipes. She was thanked for a "Bumper Edition" in December. **Action: PD**

9. Diary Dates for 2016

i. **2017: Shows 24th June and 9th September. AGM 15th November** (n.b. change of AGM date) There was a discussion about how our June date might clash with the DHERA table top sale. *Post meeting JS contacted Avril H who organises this and has been assured that they will avoid the 24 June as they have not organised anything yet, and anyway would like to borrow our tables.*

10. Irrigation Trial

Anthony Fitzsimmons was welcomed to the meeting. He has been trialling the Irrigatia system which uses solar panels. Details can be found at www.irrigatia.com/

He thought it was an excellent method for the following reasons: -

- i. It only takes water proportionally to the amount of sunshine
- ii. Timers are not necessary
- iii. Water is distributed at ground level minimising evaporation
- iv. 150 litres per week is enough water for a greenhouse and 6 rows of produce
- v. It runs from a water butt, has an anti-syphon device and cannot waste water as one run off a mains system.

The main disadvantages are maintaining the seep hoses and burying them prevents the foxes eating them!

He was thanked and the committee will discuss adopting this system at the next meeting.

11. AOB

Offer of pilates classes at a special rate to our members will be circulated by email.

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday 5 February at 9am** in the store.