

February RGS Committee Meeting - Sunday 24th January 2016 at 9am

1. Jackie Savage (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Janis Humberstone our new treasurer. There were apologies for absence from Steve Clarke.

Present were: -

Liz Chrominska	Mike Cooper	Pat Dark	Helen Finch
Shirley Gillbe	Junis Humberstone	Georgina O'Reilly	Sheila Konig
Ali Linton (minutes)	Carol Martinez	Gill Tamsett	Greg Willcox

2. Minutes of the meeting on Sunday 6th December 2015

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

3. Matters arising

- i. Database The database is now on dropbox. The chair, 2 site secretaries and membership secretary have access but only the chair and membership secretary can alter it.
- ii. Irrigation systems JS and GO'R are having a meeting on 23rd February to finalise details of a trial which will start in March on site 2. **Action: JS GO'R**

4. Chair's report

- i. Becoming a charity On January 18th A Fitzsimmons (AF) spoke to Councillor Ian Lewer (IL) who had spoken to Paul McCue (WBC/Enable lead for allotments). Paul has "letting go issues" to clarify and will report back to IL soon. There was general discussion asking for an explanation of the issues and some committee members thought that we should speak to his line manager. JS and AF are away for the next weeks and JS agreed to remind AF if we haven't heard anything by 3rd February. The Charity "Trustees" are meeting again on March 3rd. **Action: JS**
- ii. 2016 rents JS circulated a draft invoice which was accepted with the proviso that the address (except the postcode) and d.o.b. should be deleted before printing. This was considered necessary for data protection purposes.
- iii. Partnership plot holders Point 7 of the document entitled "Objectives and Procedure on Offering Plots to Let" was accepted. JS agreed to forward it to Geraldine Kelly (WBC/Enable) for her agreement. **Action: JS**
- iv. Meetings schedule 2016 JS suggested that as the various sub-committees work together so successfully it might not be necessary for them to report back to the full committee x10 each year. It was agreed to consider this further at a future meeting and the March meeting was set for March 6th. There will not be a meeting in April (Easter is on March 27th) and there will be a meeting on May 8th. It was agreed that all meetings would be at 9am on the first Sunday of the month unless we are skipping a month.

5. Allotment Secretaries' reports

Structures Policy HF reported: -

We are taking another look at the structures policy as we think the rule saying 60% of the ground must be open growing space and therefore 40% of a plot holder's total holding may have closed structures on it and that the 40% rule will dictate the size of closed growing space. This can allow a large poly tunnel or green house so we are thinking that the maximum size of a greenhouse should be the same footprint as the maximum for a shed ie. 1.2m x 1.8m (4' x 6') and that a poly tunnel can be 3m x 2.5m (10' x 8'). This is the approximate size of 3 poly tunnels on site 3 which seem an appropriate size. There was some disagreement regarding a reasonable size of enclosed growing space as some committee members thought a large poly tunnel was not necessarily bad as it increased

cultivation potential and extended the growing season. It was suggested that a maximum size for a greenhouse should be 1.8m x 2.5m (6' x 8'). It was agreed that the policy will be worked on and circulated before the next meeting.

Site 2 GO'R reported

Plot lettings: -

Plot 22B 2 rods has been let.

plot 18A, has wound up his chicken project.

Site 3 HF reported:-

Plot lettings:

Plot 52C (2.5 rods) has been let.

Plot 94B (2.5 rods) has been let.

Plot 101A(5 rods) has been relinquished. It is being offered as a large plot to those eligible on the waiting list.

6. Trading Secretary's report

GT thanked everyone who gave up their Saturday morning earlier this month to clean, tidy and reorganize the Store with great results.

We now have onion fertiliser in stock. It was out of stock for several months.

Last winter we had hot chocolate available at the café on Sunday mornings as a welcome addition during these cold months. There is now Aero available which is easy to make, Cadbury's hot chocolate is also available.

GT reported that Greg Wilcox has agreed to join the Store Sub Committee. Greg has already helped enormously with the Store and was welcomed onto this committee.

7. Show chair's report

CM reported that the Shows will be on **June 11th and September 10th**. She reminded the committee that lots of help is greatly appreciated not only on Show days but the preceding Friday evening.

8. Treasurer's report

Co-op:	£5,748.68
Lloyds:	£5,772.99
Scottish Widows:	£8,426.04 (unchanged)

9. Bulletin Editor's Report

PD reported that Quick Print (WBC) is closing, and the council are recommending alternative printers. She agreed to obtain some quotes for printing the Bulletin and it was suggested that asking for local printers via the RGS email might be useful. The deadline for March is 24th February and it will contain articles about water usage, our water rate and the Irrigation Trial.

Action: PD

10. Site Manager's report

SG reported that she, JS and HF had attended a site manager's meeting on 9th December 2015. Enable have rewritten their tenancy agreement and we are not mentioned by name. They have included an "Anti-social behaviour" clause. It was understood that their appeals process is not working very well. They are charging £3 per rod for water. Their tree inspector is inspecting all allotment trees on an x3 yearly cycle and they will manage them locally.

11. Diary Dates for 2016

Plot inspections SG, HF and GO'R will agree this by email

12 noon Sunday 13th March Paul Ellis-Howe will discuss allotmenting and judging a plot at The Store.

Saturday 2nd July Visit to King's Seeds

12. AOB

i. HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Sheila who was 85 yesterday!

ii. RHS Discount to affiliated Societies. JS agreed to publicise this on the Roots email and on the Notice Boards.

Action: JS

The **next** meeting will be held on **Sunday 6th March at 9am** in the store.