

RGS Committee Meeting - Sunday 6th March 2016 at 9am

1. Jackie Savage (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Mike Cooper.

Present were: -

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

2. Minutes of the meeting on Sunday 24th January 2016

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

3. Matters arising

i. Rent Invoice The invoice and spreadsheet that will be used for rent collection were viewed and agreed. There are about 40 members who do not have an email address. The ones who live locally will be delivered by hand and the others posted. They will be emailed from root@roehamptonallotments.co.uk by the end of March.

ii. Irrigation systems GO'R circulated a copy of the letter she has sent concerning the proposed irrigation system trial, which should run from March to October. As discussed at the Dec 2015 meeting the 3 plot holders who either have already installed an irrigation system or expressed an interest in having one have all been emailed inviting them to join a trial on site 2 this year in keeping with the agreed parameters. To date one plot holder has thanked and said he does not have time at the moment, we know one other is prepared to participate and one has not replied.

EC suggested that we take a meter reading, which would help us monitor the water usage on Site 2 where the trial is being held.

Action: JS

GO'R

iii. Structures JS, GO'R and HF met on 23rd February to review the Structures policy. Covered growing space has been restored to being part of the 40% of total covered space rather than being prescriptive about sizing of green houses and poly tunnels. It was thought that covered growing space does give the advantage of expanding growing opportunities, extending the growing season and reducing water consumption so restrictions on size are unnecessary. A policy of 'no concrete' has been included which after some discussion was modified to 'no poured concrete' as concrete paving slabs would be fine as they are easy to remove.

It was agreed to send the draft policy to Geraldine Kelly at Enable for her comments and approval.

Action: HF SG

4. Chair's report

i. Becoming a charity Cllr Ian Lewer promised to report back to us by 3 March and we still haven't heard anything. The meeting of Prospective Trustees has been cancelled and provisionally re arranged for Thurs 31 March. Anthony FS is quite clear "The ball is entirely in Wandsworth's court. They know what the Charity Commission need". This matter needs to go to Council. If we don't hear next week we will enlist Justine Greening's help again. There is no point in becoming a Charity if we can't get a long lease. We have some other ideas but JS asked the committee to be patient and see if we can get this proposal through.

Action: JS

ii. Visit by Wandsworth Horticultural Society. JS has been asked and the committee agreed that Wandsworth Horticultural Society can visit our sites on Sun 22nd May. JS suggested that we do as they did at Sailor Prince last year and open the gates for a couple of hours between 10 and 12. She requested volunteers man the gates.

Action: everyone

iii. Store roof. There have been some leaks in the roof. If anyone is there and sees evidence of a leak please will they leave a note on the table with time, date and details of the leak or email JS. The RGS does not wish to spend money on extensive repairs as we hope to replace the Store within the next 5 years as it has asbestos within its structure.

iv. Water and Grass. The water will be turned on by JS and GO'R on Site 2 and Albert Tuin on Site 3 on Sunday 20th March (in time for Easter) weather permitting. The grass will be cut before Easter.

v. National Allotment Society. JS has been in touch with the National Allotment Society to negotiate a cost for joining them. Normally they charge £2.75 per member which would be over £1000 per year. She suggested £500 pa but their lowest price is £687.50 (£2.75 per 250 ploholders). The committee were concerned that it is such a huge sum and JS agreed to clarify exactly what the benefits of joining would be for the society. **Action: JS**

5. Allotment Secretaries' reports

Site 2. GO'R reported: -

i. Plot lettings - None

ii. Security It has been reported twice this month that the lower gate on Site 2 has been found unlocked. It was oiled by a plot holder about a fortnight ago and again last week. Two notices have been put up. An anonymous message had been scrawled on the second notice to say that the lock was stiff although she found it manageable. JS and GO'R will consider if any action is needed today and proceed. (Post meeting note the locksmith will attend on Wednesday 9th March.)

Action: GO'R JS

Site 3. HF reported: -

i. Lettings:

Plot 101A (5 rods) has been let to an existing plot holder who came to the top of the waiting list and has moved from plot 115C.

Plot 115C (2 rods) has been let.

6. Trading Secretary's report

GT reported that it has been a quiet month in the store possibly due to the cold weather. 10 bags of peat have been delivered in error. Loach (our supplier) doesn't want them back and has issued a credit note. We will offer them at £2 donation per bag. The society has a policy to avoid peat products on environmental grounds.

7. Show chair's report

June 11th and September 10th CM reported that the sub-committee will meet in May.

8. Treasurer's report

Co-op: £5,354.20

Lloyds: £5,743.07

Scottish Widows: £8,426.04 (unchanged)

JH reported that there will be 2 master copies of the spreadsheet in use for the rent collection and she will update them each week to include people who have paid by banker's draft. JS agreed to print them. CM will circulate the rota for rent collection when it is complete. **Action: CM JS**

9. Bulletin Editor's Report

PD discussed items about water usage and the new structures policy but it was agreed these should be later in the year. She will highlight the new invoices and rent collection dates in the next Bulletin. **Action: PD**

10. Site Manager's report

The plot inspections will take place on [Thursday March 10th \(Site 3\)](#) and [Friday March 11th \(Site 2\)](#) weather permitting.

11. Diary Dates for 2016

[12 noon Sunday 13th March Paul Ellis-Howe](#) will discuss allotmenting and judging a plot at The Store. JS is going to extend this to other local societies.

[Wisley PD](#) agreed to investigate a visit in mid September (14th if possible).

12. AOB

None

The **next** meeting will be held on **Sunday 1st May at 9am** in the store.

THERE WILL BE NO FULL MEETING IN APRIL