

## RGS Committee Meeting – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 9am

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

Present were: -

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

### 2. To note the agreed minutes of the meeting on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016

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

### 3. Matters arising

#### i. St. John Ambulance First Aid Course

JS cancelled this because of lack of interest but might try again next year. SG suggested that we might liaise with the Putney Society who run one. **Action: JS**

#### ii. Fences and Gates

JS and GW have done a survey. They found 11 gates on site 2 and 32 on site 3 a total of 43. There are 23 gates where the residents are not plot holders, 2 on site 2 (where the gates open into the garden) and 21 on site 3 (9 opening into the gardens and 12 opening into the plots). JS is going to ask at the site managers meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November if we can use the 18" gap at the rear of plots to disable the gates. RL has updated both site maps including the gates and whether they open inwards or outwards. **Action: JS**

#### iii. Bonfire night

40 people had attended site 2 and 60 site 3. Both parties had been great fun. **Alan Smart, Mitesh Patel, SK and Bob Aveling were thanked** for supervising the fires and co-ordinating the parties.

#### iv. Site 2 Herb Bed

GO'R reported that work will start in December and it is thought that the costs will fall within the existing budget of £100. **Action: GO'R**

#### vi. Benches donated by Lesley Harvey

No quote has been given and there was discussion about the need for repairs. It was agreed that they do need repairing and that they are very useful especially when GWT and helpers are waiting for store deliveries. *Post meeting – GW has agreed to do this work.*

### 4. Chair's report

#### i. Becoming a Charity – progress report

JS and AF had met with Peter Tiernan and Jerry Birtles on 19<sup>th</sup> October. JS reported:-

a. Constitution We now have a draft constitution that should be acceptable to the Charities Commission and WBC. There will be a few minor amendments to do with voting rights (only the plot holder who pays the rent will have voting rights) and transfer of tenancies. It will include a clause allowing us not to accept rent from tenants who have consistently not cultivated their plots. JS explained that as well as the constitution (management rules) we will have local rules which will be administered by the committee.

b. Lease We have a draft lease which we hope will be acceptable to the Charities Commission. WBC needs to have the boundaries clearly marked and they will sub contract this work. When everything is in place Enable will discuss the length of the lease and the annual rent. JS hopes that we will have 50 years at a rent somewhere between peppercorn and £10k. It will be indexed annually in line with the Consumer Price Index.

c. Structures policy We also have been discussing the structures policy as they WBC want to have a clause about this “Alterations”, not just “permanent” structures but “temporary” as well. The main areas here are the area that is agreed for cultivation (covered or not) and the height allowed. 1.9m is not practical if you wish to buy a standard poly tunnel – as the standard height is 2.3m.

**The committee thanked JS, AF and Sarah Purcell for all their work on these issues.**

ii. Proposal to become organic on both sites

A plotholder is very keen that we become organic on both sites. There was discussion about this and it was agreed that it would be impossible to “police” and might be divisive. It was agreed that the store would continue to sell organic products and no insecticides. The principle of encouraging everyone to be as organic as possible would be reinforced by articles in the Bulletin.

**Action: PD everyone**

iii. Wandsworth Horticultural Society Newsletter

It was agreed to put a link on the website guiding members to their site. PD puts items of general interest in the Bulletin

**Action: JS PD**

iv. Water

The water will be turned off at the end of November, HF will ask Albert Tuin for site 3 and GO’R and JS will do site 2.

**Action: HF JS GO’R**

v. Gate maintenance

The locksmiths will do this on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

vi. Apple tree pruning

The tree on site 2 needs pruning and JS agreed to contact a plotholder. He will be asked to give another demonstration. Several plot holders have asked if he would be interested in pruning their trees (at their expense)

**Action: JS**

**5. AGM – 7 pm Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November (8pm presentation of the cups)**

i. Papers

JS will email all members and send them an agenda and full set of papers, she will ask them to print themselves a copy of the agenda (and a full set of papers if they wish to refer to them on the night). She will print 20 copies for members who don’t have email.

**Action: JS**

AL requested that if possible committee members send their reports to her in advance of the meeting. JS agreed to contact AF about his report.

**Action: JS, GO’R HF SG GWT JH PD**

ii. Committee membership

Mariangela Renshaw and Brad Sanderson are replacing Steve Clark and Sheila Konig. It was agreed that a committee member will propose each committee member and JS will ask members of the audience to second the proposal.

iii. Cups

Justine Greening MP will present the cups and it was agreed to ask Derrick Radcliffe to step in if she is unable to attend. It was agreed that JS would decide who was to be awarded the Paula Alderson cup for the best allotment.

iv. Arrangements for the night

Please can as many members as possible get to the church hall by 18.00 to help set up. GWT agreed to set up a stall from the store.

**Action: GWT everyone**

v. Refreshments

*Post meeting: AL has contacted Pat Davies who will provide sausage rolls, mince pies and make the mulled wine which AL will provide the ingredients for.*

- a. EC, JH and AL will liaise about the wine and soft drinks (water, cordial and orange)
- b. AL will purchase napkins, paper plates and paper tablecloths to cover the churches plastic ones which are (usually!) under the sink in the kitchen.
- c. Glasses are at the church hall
- d. Food. PD Blinis and smoked salmon

SK	Will purchase something sweet from M&S
CM	Tortilla
GO'R	Savoury dish for 20
GWT	Savoury dish for 20
GW	Savoury dish for 20 (thank you to Sylvia his wife!)
AL	Nibbles for before the meeting and cocktail sausages

## **6 Site Manager's report**

- i. The Plot Inspections are in progress (Site 3 3/11, Site 2 8/11). They will report at the December meeting.
- ii. There is a Site Manager's meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November, SG, JS and HF will attend.
- iii. *Post meeting – JS has confirmed that the rubbish collection will be the week beginning December 5th*

**Action: JS SG**

## **7. Allotment Secretaries' reports**

**Site 2.** GO'R reported: -

Plot lettings - None

**Site 3.** HF reported: -

Plot Lettings: None

Plot 59B 2.5 rods is available to let as the tenant has downsized to plot 81B 1.5 rods.

Plot inspection:

Inspection went ahead on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Raj Patel joined HF and JS as the non-committee member on the inspection team. His input was very useful and helpful as he spends a lot of time on site 3 and knows many of the allotmentees.

18 tenants have been or will be contacted about problems with their plots.

## **8. Trading Secretary's report**

GWT reported: -

- i. The new Trolley has arrived, it is very smart and will help enormously with deliveries. There was a problem with the wrong wheels being delivered but thanks to Greg Willcox's perseverance, the correct ones eventually arrived and were fitted by Greg. The committee extended its thanks to Greg.
- ii. We will not need to have a Loach delivery before Christmas. We have been able to source items for Christmas from our visit to Provender Nurseries at good prices and to also buy some John Innes no. 3 which we had run out of.
- iii. The takings from the Store have been quite low in recent weeks. Country Natural continues to sell well as did the garlic and onions, this means that we have not needed to replenish our stocks. However, the Store continues to work well as a social hub and we have been able to redirect green tomatoes to our chutney makers.
- iv. Trip to Provender Nurseries: This was a useful trip as we were able to buy items at good prices for the Store. Products were reduced by 10% and plants by 30%. The plants were of poor quality unless you wanted some box or topiary items.

## **9. Treasurer's report**

JH reported that the accounts are ready for the AGM

## **10. Bulletin Editor's Report**

It was agreed that the December Bulletin will be published later and will incorporate the reports from the AGM which AL will send to her when she has completed the minutes. CM

requested an article asking members to donate any unwanted Christmas presents to the Show tombola. There will not be a Bulletin in January. **Action: PD AL**

**11. Diary Dates for 2016**

- i. **2017: Shows 24<sup>th</sup> June and 9<sup>th</sup> September. AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> November**
- ii. November 10<sup>th</sup> HF and GW are attending the London branch of the National Allotments' Society.
- iii. Open Gardens weekend is the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June, as this is the weekend before the Show we agreed not to take part.

**12. AOB**

JS thanked Jean Crawford who has been troubleshooting our website and will be working on our new website in the New Year.

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 9am** in the store.