

## RGS Committee Meeting – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 9am

1. Jackie Savage (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Greg Willcox and Shirley Gillbe.

Present were: -

|                    |                      |                |                   |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Liz Chrominska     | Mike Cooper          | Pat Dark       | Helen Finch       |
| Janis Humberstone  | Ali Linton (minutes) | Carol Martinez | Georgina O'Reilly |
| Mariangela Renshaw | Brad Sanderson       | Gill Tamsett   |                   |

### 2. To note the agreed minutes of the meeting on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016

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

### 3. Matters arising

i. Herb bed Rosemary and Marjoram have been donated and sage has been purchased from Provender Nurseries. There will be cuttings from committee members.

ii. Website JS has circulated the link to the template, the images and text will added in due course. She thanked GO'R for doing the Organic Gardening page and linking it to products we sell in the Store. We now have advice and lovely images from Vicki Bennett, all sent at correct size.

iii. Hazardous paths Site 2 paths are now in good order and Site 3 is in progress. Some Plotolders have been using carpet and it was suggested that we put a reminder of our "no carpet" policy in the Bulletin. **Action: PD**

### 4. Chair's report

i. Lease / Charity update.

JS reported that we are waiting for the council to value the land. The Charities Commission are proposing to close our case, so JS has written to ask them to wait or we will have to re-submit our application (which took ages!). She will chase the council early next week. **Action: JS**

ii. Visits to and from community groups

a. 10.30 next Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Ashburton Estate gardening group "Putney Community Gardens" JS would like to advertise their work in the bulletin as they are looking for volunteers to "green up" the Ashburton Estate. They propose an orchard on corner of Tildesley and Carslake, but I understand there is also an orchard proposal for the Dover House Estate. She and GO'R attended their inaugural meeting before Christmas and last Sunday they had a working party behind the shops in Tildesley Road.

b. JS visited Growhampton Market at Roehampton Uni campus on Roehampton Lane on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. They want to encourage people to go to the markets so she has asked them to write an article for the April bulletin, with photos and map. They sell their home grown veg and produce from a local baker and organic farm. JS has invited them to visit our allotments.

c. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 10am. JS and GO'R are visiting Doddington & Rollo estate roof garden.

d. Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 10.30 visit to Best Plot winner Debbie Hardy in Morden. (JS, GO'R, SG, MR, GT & EC)

### 5. Treasurer's report

i. Invoices will be emailed on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March. There are 30 members with no email address which will be delivered/posted, AL will help with this. RL will provide 3 hard copies of the master schedule of rents as at the date the invoices are sent out. One copy will be for JH to use for accounting purposes. RL will also send JH a soft copy of the schedule. An addendum will be prepared to record any changes in plot holders which occur between the date of the invoices and 1 April as it is common for plotolders to give up their plots when the rent

becomes due.

**Action: JH JS AL**

ii. The rota for rent collections in the Store is attached to these minutes, nb version 3!

## 6. Allotment Secretaries' reports

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

Plot lettings: None

Collapsed fence to the rear plot 42

A new fence has been erected by the householder.

Huntingfield Gate Lock

Following the work to the lock carried out in mid January it was reported that *the* bolt was again stiff. The bolt aperture has now been eased and an email sent to all plot holders.

Plot inspection

This took place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Two plots were a cause for concern. Following the agreed procedures, a written Termination of Letting Agreement email and letter was sent on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 by Shirley Gillbe. The tenant has 28 days in which to clear the plot. There is also a right to appeal to WBC.

Further communication has been sent to another plot holder who is responding to concerns.

**Site 3** HF reported: -

Lettings: None this month but several in the pipeline.

Plot inspection: The inspection committee will not be looking at the whole site this month but will do so once the season has started in late April/ early May so problem plots can be spotted then. On 6<sup>th</sup> March we will be following up plots that were noted as a problem at the last inspection in November and taking a look at newly tenanted plots.

Communal area for manure and wood chip. This area is being levelled and will have signs indicating where the manure and wood chip should be deposited.

## 7. Trading Secretary's report

A store meeting was held recently, the minutes for which have been circulated. It was agreed that we would try new products for the Store and the 20% discount on Kings Seeds was reinstated. We now have a new Store Record Sheet to ensure that the required information is recorded. Store Helpers are being advised to let other Store Helpers know when they swap shifts so that the Store rota can be kept up to date and to avoid confusion. There was agreement that £100 could be spent on a new lockable till and a key safe. **Action: JS**  
GW has been investigating the cost of a new secondary shed for Site 3 given that the current one is leaking water, and does not hold many bags of compost so has to be restocked quite frequently. The proposed shed is slightly smaller than the one used for Country Natural, 6 ft. rather than 7 ft. wide, and with double doors for easy access. The cost would be in the region of £310. Consideration is being given to having a lockable money box on the sheds to take payments made at Site 3. The committee agreed to the funding of the shed and thanked GW for putting it up. **Action: GW**

Discussions are taking place regarding the new communal area on Site 3. It is being cleared to make room for manure and wood chip deliveries with a turning circle for the delivery vans. This would not be available for parking but only for deliveries and loading and would be clearly marked as such. In order for the area to stand up to the weight of a car it would need to be laid with hard core and cement and a budget of £1000 would be required.

There was discussion about the proposed new communal area and a working party consisting of HF, GWT, MC, EC and JS with present a proposal to the next meeting.

**Action: MC HF GWT EC JS**

**8. Bulletin Editor's Report**

PD presented her schedule for Bulletins (attached to these minutes). It was agreed that we will have 1 Bulletin for April/May and 1 Bulletin for October/November, to be published at a date convenient to PD. The difficulties with the printing continue. The deadline for the next edition is Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**9. Site Manager's report.**

There was nothing to report.

**10. Diary Dates for 2016**

i. Chelsea Physic Garden A plotholder is a guide there and will lead the visit which has been agreed for 4<sup>th</sup> April at a cost of £10 pp. PD agreed to email the membership and invite Raj who does not have email. There are lunch facilities available. **Action: PD**

ii. Wisley PD kindly agreed to find a date in August so that children/grandchildren could be included. **Action: PD**

**11. AOB**

i. CM reported that the Show Committee will meet after Easter and she hopes to have the schedule ready by 17<sup>th</sup> May. **Action: CM**

ii. It was agreed not to have a meeting in April as we will be busy collecting rents. Any urgent issues will be done by email.

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 9am** in the store.