

RGS Committee Meeting – Sunday 4th June 2017 at 9am

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

Present were: -

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

2. To note the agreed minutes of the meeting on Sunday 7th May 2017

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

3. Matters arising

i. Visit – The “inspirational” visit to the Wandsworth Best Plot winners plot has been covered by an article in the June Bulletin.

iii. Communal area on Site 3 The committee thanked GW for all his work on the communal area which is almost complete. GW estimated that he had approx another 3 days work and everyone is delighted with the result.

4. Chair's report

i. Locks maintenance agreement renewal This has been agreed with Securifix for 1 year from May at £370 incl VAT pa. 1st site maintenance work has been done and 1 lock cylinder replaced on Dover House Road Gate. The cylinders on the main gate are replaced once a year (approx) at a cost of £70 each. The security costs pa are about £500 + per year.

ii. Lease / Charity update.

Peter Tierman's (WBC) letter has been precirculated with the minutes. JS had requested an indication of the timing and on 30th May had received the following from him.

“I am presently preparing a report on the proposal for a 50-year lease at a peppercorn rent for Senior Member consideration and approval in principal. This report requires significant input from other Council departments hence I am reliant to a large extent on colleagues in other departments providing their advice and commentary in a timely manner. Assuming there will be no delays here, I aim to take my report to Senior Members on 19th June 2017. Ordinarily I would receive feedback from the Senior Members' meeting a few days after their meeting. Once I have received Senior Members' thoughts, it would then be possible to put together an indicative timeline for completing the corresponding new lease”

JS was congratulated and thanked for her tenacity which has in principle obtained a peppercorn rent for 50 years. She reminded us that there is still a long wait for confirmation and then we have to reapply to the Charities Commission.

5. The Show - Saturday 24th June

CM reported that everything was progressing according to plan. The Brochure has gone to the printers, invoices have been sent to the advertisers who will be “chased” for payment. It has been advertised in the Putney Society newsletter.

Pat Davies has said that she may not be able to supervise the teas and MR and CM agreed to take on this role.

JS and CM will liaise and send an email on 10th June reminding new members about the show and asking everyone for help with the teas, cakes and tombola items. CM and GO'R agreed to put up notices and posters.

Action: JS CM GO'R

6. Water

Everyone agreed that the water supply on Site 3 is “held together with sticking plaster”, there are constant leaks, mini floods, drops in water pressure and it needs completely replacing.

There was a great deal of discussion and the following was agreed: -

- i. We will wait until we have charitable status before undertaking and major works.
- ii. We will explore possibilities now so that decisions can be made and acted on when we are a Charity.
- iii. Bore Holes. MR agreed to ask her husband David to come and speak at our next committee meeting. He has been involved with sinking one at his golf club and will have information about tanks, hose use and maybe costs. **Action MR**
- iv. Construction work. AL agreed to investigate installation costs for a system that would be linked to a supply from Thames Water. **Action AL**
- v. National Allotments Association. PD agreed to email them and enquire about systems used on other sites. **Action: PD**

7. Treasurer’s report

JH reported that all rents have been paid. There are still some membership fees outstanding from people who are members but have no plots. JH to let JS know who they are and JS will chase them up. **Action JH JS**

In 2018 it has been agreed that invoices will be sent on February 1st for payment by 1st April. It is hoped that people relinquishing their plots will have decided by that date and the Society will then not lose a months rent while their plots are relet.

8. Allotment Secretaries’ reports

Site 2 GO’R reported: -

Plot lettings

The clearance work on 13B has now been completed with the exception of the bamboo treatment that still needs attention. This next eradication treatment will take place in the next couple of weeks when the shoots are at the required level. The bamboo patch will be monitored over the next year and treat when necessary. The tenant will have a 1 rod reduction until the bamboo is eradicated.

Plot Inspections

Overall plots were well maintained.

Five plots gave cause for concern. Four of the recipients have responded to the emails and 2 of these acted on the instructions given immediately.

A plot holder has not responded and the letter has now been sent by post on 29 05 17. No response as yet.

Another plot holder has acknowledged the email, but no work has been done. Now additionally the plot is covered in weeds and bindweed so a further serious email was sent 02 06 17.

Site 3 HF reported:

Lettings: 2 lettings.

Plot 80A, 2 rods. Now tenanted

Plot 70A, 2.5 rods. About to be re-let.

May plot inspection: This is a full inspection. 7 plots were identified as being a problem so 7 friendly letters were sent out. Progress will be assessed at the next plot inspection in July.

Water points: There have been 2 troublesome water points and a water tank that needed repairing recently. One of the water points and the water tank at that same point have been fixed but the other remains to be fixed.

Security: There was a complaint that a wheelbarrow had been stolen as well as some produce taken from the same plot. An email has been sent out in the hope that the wheelbarrow might only have been 'borrowed' but it has not materialised.

9. Trading Secretary's report

GT reported: -

Takings at the Store have been lower than we would expect at this time of year. However, we appear to be selling items that our members want to buy. The canes sell well as do slug and bug treatments. The slug pellets that we bought from Provender Nurseries last November have sold well. As an alternative, Loach sell 3 kilo packets of Slug Stop which is similar at a competitive price and these will be delivered this week. (*Post meeting – these items were not delivered as they were out of stock*).

The Compost Centre who supply Country Natural now stock New Horizon multipurpose compost which can be delivered straight to the store on Site 3. This saves having to move stocks from Site 2 by car.

10. Bulletin Editor's Report

PD requested copy for the July Bulletin to be in by 28th June and the September Bulletin by 10th August as the Bulletin will be published at the beginning of September with information about the Show to be held on 9th September.

11. Site Manager's report.

SG reported: -

i. The plot inspections had been held on May 12th and it was agreed to hold the next ones at the very end of June. The standard of plots continues to improve. **Action: SG HF GO'R**

ii. WBC Best plot competition – after discussion it was agreed to continue to participate. Plots will be selected at the next plot inspections at the end of June. An email will be sent reminding plot holders of Wandsworth's criteria and asking them to email if they do not wish to participate in the competition. EC agreed to organise the event on the day showing the judge around the sites and noting scores. **Action: GO'R HF SG JS EC**

iii. Enable meeting on Wednesday 10th May – there was nothing significant to report. A local resident near Huntingfield Gate (but we don't know which site) had emailed Enable complaining about rubbish but when contacted by the committee there had been no response.

12. Diary Dates for 2016

i. Wisley PD reported that there are only 2 participants.

13. AOB

i. Doverhouse Residents Tabletop Sale 17th June JH is involved and will have a table selling low value items from the Store. CM agreed to help between 11 and 1pm. EC said she would prepare a selection of seeds to sell. **Action: JH CM EC**

ii. A plot holder on Site 3 has been very tolerant and understanding about the swarm of bees that have taken up residence in her compost bin!

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday 2nd July at 9am** in the store.