

## **RGS Committee Meeting – Sunday 10th December 2017 at 9am**

1. Jackie Savage (Chair) welcomed new members Elaine Barnwell, Patrick Crawford and Vivien Fowler to the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Elaine Barnwell who is away on holiday and Vivien Fowler who hadn't received any papers owing to AL miss typing her email address for which AL apologised. JS encouraged the new members to consider which aspects of the RGS they would like to be involved in before the February meeting.

Present were: -

Liz Chrominska	Mike Cooper	Patrick Crawford
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 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

These were then signed off by JS. AL queried the need for a paper copy of the minutes to be kept, the committee felt it was necessary to have the formality of the chairperson's signature. In the absence of any corrections the committee address list was agreed. AL agreed to correct VF's details and contact her, apologise and send the papers she has missed. **Action: AL**

### **3. Matters arising**

#### **i. Shredder**

Patrick Savage's (JS's son) electrician Darren is going to put a new part on the board within the next few weeks.

#### **ii. Water site 3**

AL reported that Robert Linton (RL) has received 2 written quotations, one for £15,991.94 inc vat from Chiltern Mains and a second one from Thompson Directional £6,500 + vat. (Please note the figure given at the meeting was incorrect.) Both these companies were working from maps and information provided by RL. A third company Trench Doctor (Darren York) who visited the site with JS and RL have yet to provide a quote in spite of numerous phone calls and emails. Hopefully we will have their quote by February. **Action:**

**AL**

#### **iii. Data protection rules**

SG reported that the new rules are in the Allotment Association's magazine and are unlikely to affect us as we are a small concern. G. Kelly's view (Enable) is that if people do not want their data held they shouldn't have an allotment as it involves too much extra work for the volunteers administering the system.. The letting agreement is going to be updated and it will reassure plot holders that our policy is to try to keep the information safe. PD agreed to circulate a 2<sup>nd</sup> paper on this subject from the National Allotment Society which will be in their next bulletin. **Action: PD & JS for letting agreement update**

#### **iv. Better plot competition**

EC reported that there will be an educational session on Wandsworth Common on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2018. This will be to exchange seeds and examples of best practice. EC had no further information about the competition itself.

### **4. Chair's report**

#### **i. Lease / Charity update.**

JS had circulated a briefing note on 8<sup>th</sup> December dated 1<sup>st</sup> December which was sent to WBC and David Renshaw (MR's husband) who has passed it to a friend on the WBC cabinet. Anthony Fitzsimmons has suggested we bide our time. Comparisons were made with the DHR playing

fields but that is a commercial venture and we are seeking a peppercorn rent. It was agreed to use WBC to deal with a dispute on site 2 and ask them to replace the water system on site 3(!).

**ii. Locks**

Our routine maintenance was carried out on 5<sup>th</sup> December as per our contract. 2 cylinders were replaced.

**iii. AGM**

JS reported that 50 people had attended and it was a very sociable occasion. It was agreed to consider a change of format and venue. A Cricket Club pavillion by the Telegraph pub has been suggested as a venue, JS, EB, CM, AL and GO'R agreed to visit it in the spring and report back to the March meeting. It was felt that in November the close proximity of the church to many ploholders was an asset.

**Action: JS, EB, CM, AL and GO'R**

**iv.** £100 has been donated by a neighbour by way of an apology for throwing rubbish over her fence!

**v. Meeting dates for 2018.**

Meetings are the first Sunday of every month except January and August. The December meeting is often on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month in order not to be too close to the AGM. It was agreed not to have a meeting in April as Easter Sunday is 1<sup>st</sup> April. There will be 9 meetings in total.

**5. Treasurer's report.**

JH had nothing to report concerning our finances.

She had attended the planting of the first community orchard in Wandsworth. 7 trees had been planted and The Rt Hon Justine Greening MP had done her share of the digging. She was concerned about the maintenance of the trees and suggested that the RGS might assist, but felt that **Julian Berry** Chairman of the Doverhouse Road Residents Association might not want it.

**6. Allotment Secretaries' reports**

**Site 2** MR reported: -

1. GO'R has handed over to me (MR) the main tasks of Site Secretary for Site 2 but it has been agreed that GO'R will continue to produce any notices which need to be posted on the gates and noticeboard as she has a laminator. We have also agreed that GO'R will cover for MR when she is away and be available for any ongoing advice when needed. MR would like to take this opportunity to thank GO'R for all the help and time she has given during this transition.

**2. Termination notice**

A plot holder has received a notice of termination of tenancy letter from the Site Manager S.G. in October. As a compromise he offered, and we accepted, to reduce the size of the plot which is currently 4.5 rods. GO met with him to discuss where the new partition might be sited. The area that he offered to relinquish measures 1.26 rods which GO deems to be too small to let. GO has suggested a different partition that she hopes will be agreeable as it also would include the gate to his garden. He will consider the proposal and reply to GO by the first week of January 2018.

**3. Bamboo on Plot 13B**

The plot holder, has agreed to continue the eradication of the inherited bamboo on his plot. The RGS has purchased the tree, stump and root killer and bamboo root barrier that he will use. The bamboo will be monitored annually and in exchange he will have a 1 rod rent reduction until the bamboo is eradicated. CM asked if the passion fruit that grows through her greenhouse from that plot could be removed.

**Action: MR**

**4. Plot 34B**

This plot has now been relinquished and has been offered to the next person on the waiting list. All my attempts to contact her have failed to produce any response. I have emailed her twice, tried to call her mobile (it doesn't accept calls). I have called her landline and I have sent a text message. To date I have had no response at all, although she did indicate to Helen earlier that she was interested in taking a plot. As I understand it, she has held a plot in the past. It was agreed by the committee that she should be sent a letter and email saying that she will be removed from the waiting list if we have not heard by the specified date.

#### **5. Bonfire site**

Jo Buckingham our tree surgeon approached me whilst I was on Store duty to say that, although GO'R had already removed a large number of nails from the site of the bonfire, there were still nails there which he believed had caused a puncture when he was delivering wood chip. I got the impression that this had happened before. He asked that we did not burn pallets in future as he believed that these were the main cause of the problem. The committee said that the bonfire site cannot be changed and they will try to supervise the bonfire content to ensure that the number of nails is kept to a minimum.

#### **Site 3** HF reported:

1. Lettings: 2 plots have been given up resulting from the November plot inspection

Plot 111a: Given up and about to be re-let.

Plot 118b: Given up and has been re-let.

2. Follow up from November plot inspection:

20 allotmenters were written to after the inspection. 16 have responded 4 have not.

3. Site 3 is very large and HF does a huge amount of work (20 letters after the last Plot Inspections). It was agreed to look for someone to support her and familiarise herself with the ploholders and issues that arise on Site 2.

**Action: JS HF**

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

The Store closes after today and reopens on 7 January 2018. GWT agreed to email committee members and Store volunteers regarding the annual Spring Clean. GWT will take all the crockery home to wash.

There was a Loach delivery recently so the Store is almost fully stocked. A delivery of Country Natural and Wool Seed Compost will be arranged for the New Year.

GWT reported that the EU reauthorised the use of Glyphosate for a further 5 years at the end of November despite a petition signed by 1.3 million EU citizens calling for a ban. However, the Society has not changed its policy not to stock products containing Glyphosate.

Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, has stated that he will support a ban restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on flowering and non flowering crops which are harmful to bees, reversing the U.K.'s previous position.

JS asked the committee to consider opening the Store on Saturdays during March and April to assist with rent collection, give members more access to the Store and assist churchgoers This was agreed.

December opening was also mentioned and will be further considered during the year as very few people come in December. JS and GWT will meet to discuss details and CM was asked to look at a possible store rota for Saturdays in March and April.

**Action: JS, GWT & CM**

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

The next Bulletin will be published on February 4<sup>th</sup> the deadline is 17<sup>th</sup> January. She asked if The Ridgeway Stables still offered free manure as a plot holder was unable to contact them. The

Stables have closed down and their advertisement will be removed. She was asked to correct the dates to the 2018 ones.

She asked if a recipe book should be compiled from the recipes she has collected. GO'R offered to help with this.

**Action: PD GO'R**

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

1. SG reported that the new rents are increased by roughly 3.5% and will be: -

£23 per rod – full members

£18.60 per rod – Senior members (over 65)

£17.60 per rod – Blue badge holders

The water, insurance and membership will remain the same.

In 2018 the rents will be collected in March to avoid rental arrears and so that we do not lose rent from plot holders who give their plots up.

2. Geraldine Kelly (Enable) had hoped to retire and be re-appointed part time, this has not been possible and so she will retire on 21<sup>st</sup> December. Valerie Selby and her team will take over in the interim while Enable advertise for a replacement. RGS has donated £50 towards her retirement gift and SG will represent us at her leaving party on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

3. A plot holder who has consistently not cultivated his plot for three and a half years has appealed against her eviction notice. Jerry Birtles from WBC is coming to do a site inspection.

**10. Diary Dates for 2016**

**11. AOB**

CM thanked JS on behalf of the committee for all her hard work and tenacity regarding our charitable status. She gave her a Gift Voucher for Rick Stein's restaurant in Barnes to thank her and also acknowledge her significant birthday earlier in the year!

The next meeting will be held on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 9am** in the store.  
AL sends her apologies for this meeting and CM has kindly agreed to do the minutes.