

RGS Committee Meeting – Sunday 3rd June 2018 at 9am

1. Jackie Savage (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Pat Dark and Carol Martinez.

Present were: -

Elaine Barnwell	Mike Cooper	Liz Chrominska
Patrick Crawford	Vivien Fowler	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 6th May 2018

These minutes, agreed ex committee, were signed as a true record.

3. Matters arising

i. Water – interim measures on site 3

GW reported that he had met with RSL Services who had agreed to send a quotation for the following work to be done on Site 3.

- 3 new taps per tank on concrete posts with secure back plates.
- The taps to be properly aligned to the tanks.
- All tanks to be fitted with stopcocks enabling them to be isolated individually.
- All tanks to be fitted with non return valves.
- Pipework to be repaired where necessary.
- The tap by the toilet shed to be used to re-instate another tank. (This will have a perspex 'splash back).
- RSL services would be able to complete the work during the summer months.

GW agreed to circulate the quotation when it arrives (?next week).

Committee members expressed concern about the water pressure if there are 3 taps per tank but this will be unavoidable until we have a new water system. It was agreed that WBC should be asked to fund this.

Action: GW JS

ii. New letting agreement update

JS reported that we have draft versions of the new letting agreement and the relevant policy documents. JS and HF have done a lot of work on this, before it is finalised she suggested meeting with those who have to carry them out. It was agreed to convene a sub committee with HF, MR and VF (GO'R if available)

Action: JS

iii. RHS visit Friday 22nd June 7.30 – 9.30

EB reported that 35 people have signed up to come. As we need a minimum of 40 she will circulate details to other Wandsworth Allotments and send a reminder to RGS members.

Action: EB

iv. Saturday store opening

GT reported that the trial of opening the Store on Saturdays this year had mixed success, but was generally appreciated by our members. It is proposed that we open on Saturdays again next spring for 6 weeks between mid March and the end of April for one hour between 10 and 11am. JH added that no rents will be accepted in cash in 2019, cheque or bankers draft only.

v. Deliveries

We have been advised by our supplier that when we order canes, the delivery company has to be the one responsible for the damage to the Pleasance. They delivered canes in May with no issues.

4. Chair's report

i. Lease / Charity update

Since the meeting at Wandsworth on 21 March we have had no communications from anyone; none of the officers or the councillors or Justine Greening. We have not received anything regarding our FOI request sent on 29 March to see the valuation of the land.

A Fitzsimmons and I are meeting PC on Tuesday 5th June to discuss alternative approaches and possible "new faces". **Action: JS PC**

ii. **Data protection**

Enable have now produced a policy and looked at ours (which is in draft form on the website). It was suggested that everyone who uses our data should meet to look at the final draft. HF agreed to convene and contact EB, MR, HF, VF **Action: HF**

iii. **New Site Keys**

70 keys have been sold between 17/01/2018 and 18/05/2018 and we have had 20 returned. We have purchased 50 new keys at £12.50. The record book in the store is working well.

5. Show Secretary's report

CM (who is away) reported by email that the action plan is being followed and is running to schedule. She is waiting for a quote for the brochure, which she has sent to the printers. Responses for help for the show are starting to come in but we need more. EB agreed to send an email on Monday 11th June to this effect. It was agreed to charge for refills of tea. **PLEASE** could committee members help out in the kitchen especially during the final clear up during the auction. **Action: EB**

6. Treasurer's report

JH reported that she has received a refund of £665 from our provider Castle Water. She is considering changing our water company but will proceed with caution in order to avoid Jumping from the frying pan into the fire. Other companies could be as incompetent as Castle Water and we could also end up with problems in transitioning eg duplicate bills etc..

7. Allotment Secretaries' reports

Site 2

Plot Lettings/Changes:

31B: This plot was created by dividing the former plot 31A into two 2-rod plots. 31A retained by the original tenant and the newly created 31B has been let to a new tenant from the Primary Waiting List. The plots have been renumbered so that, from the fence to the path, they are 31A, 31B and 31C.

33B: 2-rod Plot let to a new tenant from the Primary Waiting List.

41 & 41D: These plots have been created by dividing the former 4-rod plot (41) into two 2-rod plots. Both plots have now been let to new tenants from the Primary Waiting

40D: This plot has now been let and amalgamated to form one 4-rod plot 40D (40G now being obsolete).

All vacant plots on site 2 are now re-let.

3 Situations being monitored

Site 3: Plots 50 to 100

Lettings

Plot 80A This plot has now been relet

Problem Plots:

6 problem plots listed

Problems with neighbours:

2 plots have problems with their neighbours

Other issues:

The recycling bay has become a rubbish dump. It was agreed to have it cleared and remove the logs from 98A at the same time. VF offered to facilitate this and the committee agreed to fund the costs. **Action: VF**

Site 3: plots 101 to 127

Lettings:

Plot 101D (2.5 rods) was tenanted now let

Plot 103B (2.5 rods) was tenanted, now let as additional land to a current plot holder who now has a total of 4.5 rods. He is an excellent gardener and has already made a considerable impact on this badly neglected plot.

Problem Plots:

There are 3 plots where the problems identified have not been resolved. **Action: HF**

8. Trading Secretary's report

GT reported:

It has been quite a challenging time regarding keeping the Store fully stocked this Spring due to the inclement weather. Whereas in previous years there has been a steady flow of purchases, this year there were weeks when very little was purchased when the weather was too cold/wet to tend to allotments followed by times when Country Natural and compost were flying out the doors.

The stores on Site 3 are increasingly being used and attempts are made to keep these stocked but it is not always possible. We have to ensure that orders are of a sufficient size to attract discounts. For Country Natural, this is 50 bags.

We have a new size for the Clover multi-purpose compost, and new packaging. These are 75 litres and cost £5.

9. Bulletin Editor's Report

It was noted that Pat is away until 5th June.

10. Site Manager's report.

SG had nothing to report.

11. Use of Plastic on the allotments.

GO'R and GT have agreed to set up a sub-committee in September to look at this. Committee members who are interested are asked to email GO'R directly. **Action: GO'R and others!**

12. Diary Dates for 2018

i. Better plotting competition 16th July at 8am. EC, GO'R and GW have agreed to escort the judge on 16th July at 8am. He will start on site 2. It is self-nominations only this year, a notice has gone into the Bulletin and notices will be posted on the gates.

ii. AGM now Thursday 18th October

12. AOB

i. Store Repairs

Following a suggestion from EB about how the cricket club had fixed their asbestos roof, PC reported that there is a material available for mending asbestos roofs. Insulation can be out on top of the roof but the under surface will have to be left as it is. It was agreed to defer this matter until after the meeting with WBC when it is hoped we will get more idea of the funding they are able to allocate for this and the Site 3 water repairs. JH agreed to forward an email re Section 106 funding from WBC and committee members were encouraged to vote for allotment maintenance work (Site 3 water and Store repairs). **Action: JH**

ii. MA dissertation

GO'R is meeting with a student today who is doing her MA on "Allotments and Wellbeing" she may ask for volunteers to be interviewed.

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