

RGS Committee Meeting – Sunday 1st July 2018 at 9am

1. Jackie Savage (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Pat Dark. She said that Leslie Harvey, a longstanding plot holder and ex committee member died on 25th June. He was 96 and has gifted his body to medical research so there will be no ceremony. She has written to his family on behalf of the RGS Committee and members. Notices have been posted on the site 2 gates (with permission from his wife).

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 3rd June 2018

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

3. Matters arising

i. Water – interim measures on site 3

JS reported that GW has provided us all with the estimate of £1000 from RSL, plus an additional £300 for GW for new “back plates” and supporting structures and we seem in agreement that it is reasonable. It has been suggested that we only have 2 taps per tank and that we have an estimate to add 2 new tanks. It was noted that if there are already 3 taps in existence by a tank they will remain although the water pressure is so low at some tanks with 2 taps that only one person can water at a time! The committee agreed unanimously to go ahead with this work whilst continuing to lobby WBC for a new mains system.

Action: JS GW

ii. New letting agreement update

JS had pre-circulated all the papers to the committee for agreement. There was a lot of discussion about the following issues: -

a. Plot offer letter. The use of the word **will** instead of **may** in the agreement, Allotment Plot Offer Letter. The plot holder will sign that they understand that should they be in breach of the rules and procedures they may be asked to vacate the plot. This was voted on and the majority wanted **will** (8 to 5 with 2 abstentions).

b. Probationary period. It has been queried as to why we do not have a probationary period and it was agreed to include one of 6 months in the offer letter. It will read “I understand that I have 6 months to have the plot to the required standard of 60% cultivation and if it is not I may be asked to vacate my plot”.

c. Appeals. JS has checked this with Enable and it will be 2 weeks not 1. (See Appeals Procedure in Letting Agreement)

d. Rent. Ref. Letting Agreement section 2 point 4 ii. Rent unpaid after 30 days will result in the loss of plot. It was noted that all defaulters are currently sent reminders if they have not paid by 30 April. To read “If rent remains unpaid after 30 days the tenancy WILL be terminated on grounds of non-payment. i.e. 30 April” and any property remaining on the plot will become the property of RGS and may be removed. It was pointed out that there will need to be stronger warnings in future rent demands of the risks of not paying rent on time.

e. Letting Agreement Section 3 Rule 9. (To inform the Site Secretary of periods when the plot is being cultivated temporarily by another person.) It was agreed that a reason must be given and the Site Secretaries could decide or bring the issue to the full committee. To add “Reasons must be given for the temporary absence”.

(Note: After the meeting JS noted that rule 10 states that if the absence is likely to be longer than 3 months then the Secondary Waiting list should be applied for – an Enable/WBC rule we are following)

f. Bad behaviour. GT agreed to suggest a different wording which will be agreed ex-committee. JS, HF, MR and VF were thanked for all their work on these documents. It was agreed that JS will make the required changes, post the draft policies on the web-site and send them to Enable for their approval. The committee approved these actions. **Action: JS**

iii. **RHS visit Friday 22nd June 7.30 – 9.30**

This had been a huge success. 36 people had attended and £22.40 had been donated to the Society. The Roehampton Cricket Club was an excellent location. EB was thanked for organizing the event.

iv. **Rubbish collection – site 3**

VF reported that the rubbish has been cleared, a notice has been put up and no more rubbish has accumulated. Fingers crossed!

v. **Better plotting competition – July 16th**

EC reported that she has 11 entrants from site 2 and 2 from site 3. She will print out forms and escort the judge on July 16th

4. **Chair's report**

i. **Lease / Charity update**

PC has agreed to take the lead on the negotiations with the Council on the matter of a new Lease. AF and JS had a "handover meeting" with PC on 5 June and agreed to help in any way they could.

PC and JS are also involving a new plotholder and one who answered our appeal in the Bulletin.

JS thanked PC for taking on this role.

ii. **Data protection**

A meeting has been convened for this sub-committee on 10th July.

Action: HF and all those who use the data

iii. **Nominations for a new chair and suggestions for new committee members**

JS reminded the committee that after 5 years she is standing down as chair at the AGM. PD has done the Bulletin for 10 years and is also stepping down from this role again at the AGM. Our constitution allows us 15 committee members and she asked everyone to consider their future roles and also suggestions for new committee members. (n.b SG is ex-officio)

CM would like to take over the Bulletin. JS requested that committee members let her know their intentions and suggestions before the September meeting. **Action: everyone**

5. **Show Secretary's report**

Everyone agreed that the Show had been a huge success and enjoyed by all. CM reported that the action plan worked well and would have a few minor adjustments for the Autumn Show. There was plenty of help in the kitchen. JH reported that "takings for the show were up on the same period last year and many categories showed a significant increase with the exception of the adult tombola which showed a decrease of around £50. She has previously circulated the takings (21st June) to the committee with a request for any expenses.

The Show Dates for 2019 are June 15th and September 14th. JS agreed to book the Church halls

Action: JS

6. **Treasurer's report**

JH reported that she has received £7.32 from our water provider Castle Water to represent interest on our refund of around £600. In spite of complaints to Castle Water about the amount of time wasted by their incompetence they refused to pay anything more than this. JH has not yet investigated the options for changing supplier but was wary of jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

7. **Allotment Secretaries' reports**

Site 2

- MR re-iterated the sad news that Leslie Harvey died on 25th June. He was a larger than life character and he will be greatly missed by us all. She suggested that we create a prize or a cup in his

memory to be awarded at either the Summer or the Autumn Show. There was discussion about the bench Leslie donated to the Society which is now in need of renovation and maybe replacing it in his memory. It was agreed that this bench has a plaque on it in his memory.

- There are no new plot lettings to report.
- Fallen fence at the rear of plot 38A. We have been in direct contact with the resident of 7 The Pleasance and the fence is now being repaired.
- Plots 21A&B / plot 20: We have now received a quote to rebuild and shore up the unsafe path between plot 20 and plots 21A and B. The quote has been accepted and work should commence shortly.
- Plot 13B. The plothead was concerned that he might have a sheet of asbestos on his plot. PC looked at it and, whilst offering to help in any way he could, thought it was unlikely to be asbestos and cause any harm. Nothing has been heard subsequently.
- GO'R and I did an informal inspection of Site 2 at the beginning of June and letters were sent to the 4 plot holders regarding non-cultivation of their plots. The situation will be monitored and followed-up after the main plot inspection in July.
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Site 3 plots 50 to 100

- Lettings: none in June
- Problem plots: -
- Problems with neighbours
61A – shed height resolved
98A – tree logs still to be removed
- Other issues
Gate blocking still to be done
The recycling bay is now just for pots and plants

Site 3 plots 101 to 127

- Lettings: None
- Plot inspection follow up: -
There are 3 plots that are under review as they are particularly poorly cultivated. Each of these tenants understands that they are at risk of losing their plot which will be looked at with particular attention at the July plot inspection.

8. Trading Secretary's report

GT reported:

We have some new products in the Store.

- Bayer Slug Killer replaces the usual Advanced Slug Killer pellets as these are currently out of stock. It has the same ingredients as the Advanced Slug Killer.
- Packets of Epsom Salts are now in stock which contains magnesium sulphate which improves the ability of plants to take in nitrogen and phosphorus.
- We have a new Organic Bug Killer as the previous product has been discontinued by Bayer. Unfortunately, although it contains fatty acids, this one is harmful to bees and thus should not be sprayed onto flowers. I do not propose to order this again.

We need to decide whether to continue to stock a bug killer if there isn't one which is not harmful to bees. If we did, then it would be Bayer Provado Fruit and Vegetable Bug Killer which contains Deltamethrin but has good results. GWT agreed to investigate the make-up of SP Invigorator recommended by the RHS when they came to visit which has the benefit of providing a feed as well as killing bugs. **Action: GWT**

9. Bulletin Editor's Report

The deadline for the September Bulletin is **10th August**.

10. Site Manager's report.

SG had nothing to report but agreed that it is an excellent idea to use the problem logs on Site 3 to block the gate from the house that has "dumped" them.

The plot inspections will take place on Friday July 20th.

11. Diary Dates for 2018

There is a trip to Wisley on 23rd July (PD)

12. AOB

The use of stable manure was one of the questions at the RHS visit on 22nd June. GO'R (who had asked the question and taken notes!) agreed to write an article for the Bulletin. EB agreed to send email to all who attended to ask for their questions and notes which will be forwarded to GO'R who will write an article for the bulletin. There are a couple of photos of the event that will be forwarded to GO'R for the article.

Action: EB GO'R

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