

Minutes RGS Committee Meeting
9 am Sunday 4 November 2018

Present: Elizabeth Smart, Mariangela Renshaw, Janis Humberstone, Elaine Barnwell, Greg Willcox, Vivien Fowler, Ali Linton, Gill Tamsett, Brenna Latimore, Catherine Maunsell-Bower, Patrick Crawford, Carol Martinez and Jackie Savage (Minutes).

Apologies: Shirley Gillbe and Mike Cooper

1. Helen Finch (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the new members and asked all to introduce themselves and what role they have / are interested in having. CMB expressed particularly interested and experience with councils and in the formation of a charity.

It was agreed that personal addresses be removed from the Committee Contacts list and the amended list circulated.

Action: JS

2. To note the agreed minutes of the meeting on Sunday 7 October 2018
These minutes, agreed ex committee, were signed as a true record. To now be added to website.

Action: JS to send to JC

3. **Matters arising** (not agenda items)

i **Lease / Charity update.** PC explained that he was in touch with Peter Tiernan who had agreed that the current version of the Lease was still on the table. There is a meeting on 20 November with P Tiernan and the Head of Parks at Enable (Neil Blackley) which PC, HF and Alan Strowger will attend. They also plan to meet before they go on 20 Nov.
PC says that it is very important that we have political cover and to that end has been in touch with our local Cllr Steffi Sutters who has responsibility for Open Spaces in the WBC cabinet. She has spoken to Peter Tiernan and has since requested copy of the Heads of Terms and summary of our primary concerns.
PC explained that a lot of the hard work has been done with Charities Commission but that application is on hold until a lease can be agreed with WBC.

It was agreed that the lawyers who WBC employed to look at the lease and caused the problems should attend meetings too.

We should also look at our own solicitors (we used Russell Cook Charity experts in the past both pro bono and paid).

It was suggested that the people who are setting up a charity to control the Dover House Road playing fields be contacted as they have similar interests.

Action JH and EB to give PC contact details.

- ii **Noticeboards**

The plastic needs to be replaced. Glass suggested.

Action: GW

4. Chair's report

2 long standing site 3 plot holders have been very ill.

Cards wishing them speedy recoveries were signed and will be posted.

- i AGM debrief. It was agreed that the venue and the date were excellent and this should be continued in 2019. EB thanked for organising.

Action: HF/EB to book the Cricket Club for a date in October 2019 before the clocks go back.

- ii Date for turning off water on both sites. This should be done at end of November initiated by the Site Secretaries.

Action: MR on site 2 and VF and AL on site 3

- iii Store roof needs to be replaced. PC reminded us of the proposals and estimates already obtained.

Action: PC to bring estimates to next meeting

iv Bonfire party on site 3 on Sat 3 Nov. Excellent turn out of about 80 people. Thanks to Bob Aveling and Sheila Konig for organisation and to Jo George and GW for the fireworks.

5. Treasurer's report

i Reminders need to be sent by end of Feb saying that if you are giving up your plot you will need to give 1 month's notice. This is so all year but a lot of people give up at rent time and we are at risk of missing out on rents if there is a delay reletting the plot.

Action: JH and EB

ii. Invoice received from Enable. This is now due but we will delay payment until at least after the meeting on 20 Nov.

6. Show Secretaries' report

CM reported that at the Show Sub committee meeting it was proposed that we only have one show next year (in the Autumn) as a trial. We would have a Celebration of summer in June at the store and there would be a low key showing of roses, sweet peas and other flowers and perhaps some fruit. This can be decided close to the event when we see what is available. There would be teas served from the store. There are 2 gazebos available if weather is poor.

The committee agreed this would be a good idea to trial in 2019.

Action: CM to rewrite all the shedule for the show and the associated notices and signs.

HF to cancel the booking for Friday / Saturday 14/15 June with the Church and to confirm the booking for Friday / Saturday 13/14 September.

7. Site Secretaries' reports

Site 2 (MR)

Lettings:

Plot 26B (2.5 rods) has now been let to the next person on the Primary Waiting List from 1 October 2018.

Plot 18A (1.5 rods) has been let to the next person on the Waiting List for more land

Plot 20 has been divided into two plots : 20A 5-rods which has been let to the next person to qualify from the Secondary Waiting List from 21 October 2018 and 20B (2 rods) which is being shown to the next person on the Primary Waiting list on Monday 5 November.

Plot 10A: (1.5 rods) was vacated on 31 October. The outgoing tenant has kindly said that any monies owing to her can be donated to the RGS. This plot has been offered to the next person on the waiting list for more land who has been in direct contact with the outgoing tenant to arrange the hand-over.

Site 3 Outer Area (VF)

Lettings:

Plot 65C let– made good start.

Plot 75B let

Plots 71A and 82C shown on 2 Nov – yet to make decision. Said he would let me know in next two days

Problem Plots

56A, 56B 61B and 88 are still a concern.

Plot 96B – email received regarding branches of his fruit trees have been cut off without his permission.

Action: VF to investigate

Problems with neighbours

Plot 50A – email received regarding apple tree belonging to Huntingfield Road resident overhanging her plot.

Other issues

Plot 64A– email received regarding theft of two pieces of trellis from her plot

Site 3 – Inner Area (AL)

Lettings

Plot 109C (3 rods) has been let

Plot 109B (3.5 rods): The plot holder wanted to downsize but has decided to stay put

8. Trading Secretary's report

We have had a recent delivery from our wholesalers and have everything needed to prepare the allotments for Winter.

The weed suppressant is very effective at suppressing weeds until the next growing season and comes in handy 1 metre wide rolls.

There is some seed composts if members want to start sowing seeds this year. The bulk of seed composts will be ordered at the beginning of next year.

We will be visiting the Allotment Open Day at Provender Nurseries in Kent again this year to purchase items for the store such as hand forks and trowels which make good Christmas presents.

The flower bulbs, onions and garlic have proved popular again this year.

Notice: There will be a Store Tidy and Clean-up in early January before the Store re-opens on 6 Jan.

Action: GT to email committee with suggested dates

9. Bulletin Editor's report. (CM)

There will be no Bulletin in December, the next one will be January (deadline 15 Dec). From then on it will be bi-monthly or monthly depending on the events and season.

Georgina O'Reilly has agreed to re-write "Jobs for this month" to suit and they will be posted on the website.

All suggestions for articles warmly received.

10. Site Manager's report – (HF in absence of SG)

i **Nov Plot inspections** this coming week. Charles Gillbe to deputise for SG and Bruce May for Raj Patel who is unable to attend.

ii **Rubbish Collection** organised by Enable will be on 27 November. Site Secs to notify their plot holders by email and notices when they can start to pile their rubbish. Agreed that there should be at least 2 weekends included, so needs to be announced in the coming week.

Action: AL & VF and MR & ES

11. Manure & Wood Chip deliveries

EB & GW offered to work with Derrick Ratcliffe on the manure delivery process.

VF offered to organise the wood chip for both sites.

Action: EB & GW & VF

12. Diary dates and trips

BL offered to organise trips and events. She will liaise with Pat Dark over this and in particular over the annual trip to Wisley and the committee "day out".

Action: BL

13. AOB

i HF suggested that as the AGM was in October we did not need to meet in December and she would prefer a January meeting instead. Agreed.

ii HF had received a request from a plot holder to cook some pasta for her children on her plot. It was agreed that only "brew ups" would be allowed, not the cooking of food, although of course picnics (pre-cooked) food is fine.

Action: HF

Date of the next meeting will now be **Sunday 6th January 2019** 9am at the store
(No meeting in December 2018)