

## MINUTES OF RGS Committee Meeting 9 am Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

Present: Helen Finch (Chair), Gill Tamsett, Ali Linton, Catherine Maunsell-Bower, Patrick Crawford, Brenna Lattimore, Elizabeth Smart, Janis Humberstone, Mike Cooper, Charles Gillbe, Carol Martinez, Vivien Fowler, Elaine Barnwell, Greg Willcox and Jackie Savage (Minutes)  
Apologies: Marinagela Renshaw

### 1 Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 14 July 2019, agreed ex committee, signed.

### 2 Declaration of AOB items – none declared

### 3 Matters arising (not agenda items)

#### i Renewal of Lease (PC)

Steffi Sutters asked for time to meet with Peter Tiernan again before we did, so she could prepare for the final negotiations. When PC followed this up for an update she said she had not seen PT but advised that we resolve the new store roof and the water on site 3 first so they wouldn't block the negotiations.

#### ii Store Roof replacement

HF thanked PC for all the unstoppable work that he has done resulting in our splendid new roof which was funded by Wandsworth Council. All committee members expressed their thanks and congratulations.

#### iii Water on Site 3 (PC)

PC met Wandsworth Council officer last week for final inspection of the store roof and then they went over to site 3. Now that schools are back the Council will have time to undertake a full survey of the water sources (aided by the survey map drawn up by RL). This would be completed in September. PC anticipated that realistically the work would take place in the new year.

#### iv Harvest Festival (BL)

CM is happy to help BL with a display at St Margaret's Church Harvest Festival on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. There will be some activities for children and RGS will donate any materials needed (eg compost).

#### v GDPR Audit (HF)

Pat Dark has prepared a report and found there was a good understanding of GDPR and implementation of the Privacy Policy. However, there were areas that could be improved which HF will discuss with Pat first then see how best to implement any changes. Many thanks to Pat Dark for doing this very professional job in exactly the right spirit for our Society volunteers. There was a lot of agreement around the table on this particular point. Those who were audited felt it was done in a very unthreatening, pleasant manner.

**Action HF**

The Privacy Policy has been updated to include the website manager (Jean Crawford) as data processor but RGS email waiting list applications deletion process is still under discussion.

**Action HF and JS**

#### vi New Plot Labels (VF)

New sustainable ones have been sourced. Prices and final details to be discussed with AL and brought to next meeting.

**Action VF and AL**

### 4 Chair's report.

i) **New Rule (32) re flags:** HF apologised for not circulating and consulting with the committee over this issue before now – that was an unintentional oversight. It was pointed out that it was important that the committee understand that the objection to the flag was in no way a smear on the plot holder, who has the George Cross flag on his plot.

The document 'Flying Flags on Allotments' had been circulated prior to the meeting to the committee with the agenda. (*Attached to these minutes.*) There were 2 suggested wordings for Rule 32 on this document. Another wording was suggested leaving out flags altogether from option 1. There was a lot of discussion on this item. Points made included from a survey about how people currently regard the English flag and how it has been adopted by some right wing elements and how this might, or might not, affect our decision. Views were expressed as to how we all try and be tolerant of most things but also there is a need to take things seriously if there has been a serious complaint.

The committee were unable to resolve the issue in the limited time of a full committee meeting, so it was decided to form a sub-committee of HF, JH, EB, CM-B, AL. To be convened by HF  
The sub-committee will report back to the full committee at the next meeting.

- ii) **Plot holders who move out of borough:** Currently we have 4 or 5 plot holders who have moved out of Wandsworth Borough and continued to tenant their plot with RGS. HF recommended that:
1. So long as they continue to work their plots to a satisfactory standard, they should keep their tenancy.
  2. It would be difficult to police and may be inviting plot holders to deceive us about their address.
  3. They may have moved just across the Wandsworth border and may actually be closer to the allotments than if they were resident in the Borough.
  4. We have an obligation to encourage and support our current members.

Reason to ask them to relinquish their plot:

We have a long waiting list (although it is shorter than most in the borough.)

It was decided to find out the Policy for Wandsworth Borough regarding this issue and discuss at the next committee meeting.

**Action CG**

- iv) **Plot holder wanting more social events/ Facebook Page.** HF discussed this with the plot holder and it was agreed that she could put up notices on the gates for a social meeting at say a local pub and the RGS would be willing to put out an email to the membership, making it clear that all responses would go to her.

## **5. Treasurer's report (JH)**

Getting accounts ready for end September. Still waiting to hear from Castle Water re the muddle with the bills. JH has given them a suggested template to work to but no response. She will go to the Consumer Council over this issue. Last bill has been paid. JH offered to continue with this aspect of the Treasurer's work after she has left the committee at the AGM. It was also suggested that once this matter has been settled we change supplier.

## **6. Trading Secretary's Report (GT)**

The Spring bulbs have arrived and we now have to bag these up for sale at the Autumn Show. The date we have in mind to do this is Tuesday 17 September in the morning. GWT asked if any Committee Members were able to help with this.

Two of our members received a letter from Dobies asking them for membership details and how many catalogues they would like to order. On phoning Dobies, GWT was informed that these members had been incorrectly listed as organisers. GWT has asked Dobies to check whether any other members had been listed as organisers and stated that she was the only organiser that Dobies should write to.

Store Volunteers. There are 2 resignations from the store rota. If anyone else would like to be on it there would need to be 2 names as it is organised in pairs. (CM)

## **7 Allotment Secretaries' reports**

### **i Site 2 (ES)**

Construction of the brick and timber fence between the back garden of and Site 2 continued through July and August but has not been completed so Site 2 is still insecure. HF has contacted Wandsworth about this and will chase a reply.

**Action HF**

Plot 17 became vacant and a new tenant is about to take it over. Plot 34B will change hands later this month. Plot 27A is being shown on 3 September.

After the plot inspection several plotholders received messages about the need to control weeds, notably bindweed, on their plots.

### **ii Site 3 Outer Area (VF) Lettings**

Plot 89 has been split in half.

Plot 89A – being signed up today

Viewing arranged for Plot 89B later today

### **Plot Inspections**

Reinspection after July inspections - generally all problem plots much improved

### **Problems with neighbours**

Council have repaired fences to 145 Huntingfield Road and 148 Dover House Road

Plot 58A. No action from 15 Elmshaw tenant or Council so weeds sprayed with poison up to house boundary

Rubble thrown onto Plot 94A from unidentified house

### **Other matters**

Both woodchip and manure deliveries have been requested

Washbasin in WC damaged. No action but being monitored  
Recycling area cleared ready for new pot bin installation. New sign needed

**iii Site 3 Inner Area (AL)**

**Problems:**

Plot 103A 4 rods has been let

There are still some problem plots following the July inspections

**8 Bulletin Editor's Report (CM)**

The on line version will be on the website and the email link will go to all members shortly. (Action JC and EH)

The printed version to be delivered on Monday. Has full show schedule included.

Deadline for next issue: 30 Sept.

**9 Show Secretary's Report (CM)**

Show committee meeting next Sunday 8 September 9am Store. By which time all judges and Charles Held's help will be confirmed.

**10 Site Manager's report. (CG)**

Stage 3 letter was sent to a plot holder giving deadline of 17 September to lose the plot unless there has been progress.

**10 Events and Diary dates:**

**Autumn Show:** Sat 21<sup>st</sup> September (Church Hall)

**KNIFE SHARPENING EVENT:** HF to book another session in October.

**AGM:** Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> November (Cricket Club)

**SEED SWAP:** VF volunteered to organise a seed swap in January in the store.

**Date of the next meeting Sunday 6 October 2019 9am at the store.**