

## RGS Committee Distance Reports

### Zoom meeting: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021 9am

1. **Apologies for Zoom meeting:** Emma Blackwell, Patrick Crawford, Mike Cooper, Vivien Fowler, Charles Gillbe, Brenna Lattimore and Greg Wilcox.

2. **Record** (attached) of the distance meeting reports from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 signed off ex-committee

#### 3. Matters arising not on the agenda

i) **water charges:** No complaints from plot holders about the large hike in water charges.

#### 4. Chair's report: (HF)

i) **Toilets:** These will be open on the Easter weekend. Cleaning materials will be provided. Instructions on how to avoid recontaminating washed hands on the inside of the door. Kitchen towel provided to dry hands. Extractor fans have been fitted. VF is preparing a rota for toilet monitoring. An email will be sent out to site 2 plot holders appealing for volunteers for this duty. CMB will put together the rota. **Action HF and CMB**

ii) **AGM location:** Booking the church hall is difficult as they have classes up until 6.30/7pm during term time. We could do Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> November in the church hall or we could stick with the Cricket Club. **No one wanted to hold the AGM on a Saturday. The Cricket Club is expensive as it has an 'open' bar which is difficult to manage, and it is a rather confined space. The Church Hall is unavailable but the church was offered. It was agreed that we would hold the AGM in the church on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November.** It is inexpensive and with its tall ceilings more Covid friendly. **Action HF**

iii) **Rent collection:** A second email was sent on 2<sup>nd</sup> April to plot holder who had not paid by 31<sup>st</sup> March. As of 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 9 plot holders have not paid their rent. They will be contacted again. There have been very few who have had difficulty paying by bank transfer.

iv) **Wildlife photographer:** We have been approached by Mitchell Lewis who would like access to the allotments to take photos of foxes. He needs to have a key. I would be in favour of his having one but with a deadline of 2 months and charged the normal £22 with £20 returnable deposit. His photos are quite something - see some at: <http://www.mitchlewisphoto.com/>. This was agreed by the committee and an email will be sent to all members informing them of his presence. We will request photo's for the website and Bulletin. **Action HF**

v) **Prints of plants for Rwanda charity:** Kate Hunt asked about having some prints on fabric of plot holder's plants commissioned by the plot holder. Revenue would go to a charity she is involved with in Rwanda providing Physio to children. This is the link to the charity: [https://youtu.be/k\\_GQ\\_BroQ1M](https://youtu.be/k_GQ_BroQ1M). She suggested showing examples in the cabin on site 3. It has been suggested the show might be more appropriate. **It was agreed that her display would look great at The Show, and there will be clear signage about the Charity she is supporting. Action HF**

#### 5. Projects:

**Project 1: Communal cabin site 3: progress (JS)** Electrician and plumber now completed work. Fridge, kettle, water heater, background heater all in place. Light and fan in loo. Door mat at door. Working party (led by Charlie Held with Gerrard R, Ronnie M, Bill and Marianna P) laid path and erected fence on Sat 6<sup>th</sup> March

Fence has now been painted by Bob Aveling

Potting Shed sign in place and artwork and clock in cabin – thank you for all donations

##### **Future work**

Connect and reinstate water butt (PS)

Raised bed constructed (GW)

Weed fabric and stone chippings to be laid (GW)

Lock to be changed to match site key (Bob Aveling)

Plaque to Sonia Sawyer (arranged by VF)

3 new timber sheds for store goods and shredder to be researched and installed on a hard solid base (GW)

Install trellis and paint rear fence (VF and Mark)

**Budget (HF)** Now have an overspend of £660. Only some weed control fabric now needed.

**Project 2: Power on site 3: progress (JS)** EDF came and installed the meter on Weds 10 March – met HF and electrician on site. WE HAVE POWER ON SITE 3!

**Budget (HF)** this project is completed at £770 over budget

**Project 5: Social area on site 2: Progress (CM)** a working party was held on Good Friday, volunteers assembled the picnic table, rehung the door of the shed, filled up the planters and also built a table from pallets. We are nearly there – just a bit of tidying up to do. [There is rubbish to remove and CM was anxious that no one adds to it.](#)

**Budget (HF)** Just about within budget and no further spending anticipated.

**Site 3 Shredder and sheds (JS)** 3 new timber sheds for store goods and shredder to be researched and installed on a hard solid base (GW and HF)

## 6. Water on site 3 (PC)

PC, having continued to chase Wandsworth Council, has been informed by them that the remainder of the works will now be completed by Friday, 23 April. This includes Thames Water making their final connections. PC also hopes to attend a handover meeting on that day with Wandsworth Council. Additionally, Cllr Steffi Sutters has been made aware of the situation. PC will continue to monitor developments and report further to the Chair in due course.

## 7. Lease renewal (PC)

Regrettably, there has been no further progress with regard to the renewal of the lease. Once again, Fiona Hallard of Richmond and Wandsworth Council has postponed her Meeting with us. The reason for this, she has stated, is that she is still awaiting clarification of the effects on the financial budgets of the Council of our proposed changes to the lease at a peppercorn rental from the Council Finance Team. Ms. Hallard states that she needs such clarification so as to progress this matter for consideration by the requisite Council Committee.

PC, Helen Finch and Alan Strowger have been told that a Meeting will be held in April with Fiona Hallard when she hopes to have received the information she requires. We will continue to chase Ms. Hallard and progress will be reported at the next Committee Meeting in May.

## 8. Charity application (CMB)

**9.. Treasurer's report: (DJ)** See *attached* PDF for the current listing of all accounts. This shows a breakdown by category, income, expense etc.

- **Special Projects** – Total spend this financial year to 31st Mar is **£9,289.90** including the March spend of **£2710.43** (site 2 - picnic table & raised beds, site 3 - electrics, water supply, landscaping, etc for tea hut)
- **Maintenance Costs** – Total spend this financial year to 31st Mar is **£818.75** including March spend of **£168.80** for new lock cylinders for site 3.
- **Annual Rent Payment** — As of 1st Apr, we've taken **£21,218.24** (of £23,123.44 invoiced) in annual rent and fees from 290 (of 334) plot holders and associate members.

**10. Trading Secretary's Report: (GT)** We are now beginning to experience stock shortages. We were unable to have any New Horizon Compost with our last delivery. We have tried to order for another supplier but they have been experiencing problems which is effecting their deliveries of Country Natural also. [GT emphasised this at the meeting and they will continue to try and obtain a supply as soon as possible.](#)

There is a new price list effective 27 March to reflect price increases introduced earlier this year.

GW, HF and GWT had a tidy-up of the Store on Good Friday to make it ready for its reopening on Sunday 4 April.

**Click and collect (JS)** The click and collect ran for 8 weeks from 7 Feb to 28 March. The total amount taken in this period was approx. £4,600 (after the SumUp commission was taken), an average of approx. £575 per week. There were about 20 orders each week. This was real team effort and involved 10 people with JC at the helm!

A huge thank you to Jackie too (HF)

#### **11. Allotment Secretaries' reports:**

##### **i) Site 2 (C MB) Lettings:**

Plot 24 – 5 rods: Has now been let to a PH who wanted more land.

Plot 26A – 2.5 rods: This has now been re-let.

Plot 33A – 2.5 rods: This has now been re-let.

Plot 34A - 2 rods: This has now been re-let.

Plot 40A – 3.5 rods: This has now been re-let.

Plot 41 – 2 rods: This has now been re-let.

##### **ii) Site 3: outer area 50-100 (VF) Site 3 – Site Secretary Report : Plots 50 to 100**

**Lettings:** Three lettings – Plots 52A, 71B and 79B. Plot 80A acquiring additional land

**Plot Inspections:** April plot inspections taking place. Some plots are either not cultivated at all or have many weeds.

**Neighbours:** Fence situation behind Plot 61A is ongoing.

Council to be contacted re ivy growing over fence onto our DHRd entrance path – difficult for deliveries to pass by

**Other matters:** Manure – new deliveries obtained from firm clearing Buckingham Palace and Marlborough House. Some concern over quality. *After a huge amount of work deliveries have been obtained but are unsatisfactory. It is the wrong time of year to spread manure, the delivery to Site 2 was huge and we will have to encourage plot holders to take it for free. VF refused the delivery for Site 3 as it would obstruct the path. We will wait for our usual suppliers in the autumn.*

Woodchip – recent delivery to Site 3

**Inner area 101-127 (AL)** We have had 'musical allotments' in the last few weeks!

Plot 115A (4 rods) now vacated.

Plot 105B (3.5 rods) has been vacated and re-let.

Plot 115A (4 rods) has now been let

Plot 116A (2 rods) has been let

**12. Bulletin Editor's report (CM)** Deadline still 12<sup>th</sup> April.

**13. Show Chair's report (CM)** Shows: a meeting will be held to discuss the logistics for the summer show some time in May.

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

**15. Plant sale (VF)** the helpers are meeting 14 April to discuss layout and strategy. We will follow Government guidelines on Covid safety – masks, spacing and sanitising of hands

(HF) The suggestion was funds raised should go to a charity. Wandsworth Food Bank accept donations of money as well as food so this is suggested as an option. Do the committee agree? *This was agreed unanimously – there will be signage displaying that fact. Payment will be by card and a bucket will be available for cash donations.*

## 16. Events and Diary dates:

- Gardeners' Question time (CG) :
- Plant sale 24/04/21
- Sharpening event (HF) Adam Bennett is booked for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.
- Summer show 13/06/21
- Visit to Wisley
- AGM: 12/11/21

**Weed tour:** BL had sent a message asking whether or not people would prefer a walking weed tour around the allotment or a sit down presentation, and when people would like it to be (not September as Roy is busy then). Some possible dates, or even just preferred months and day of the week and he can choose. It was decided the best time was on a Saturday, one of the last 2 in July whichever is Roy's preference. We thought probably a maximum of 20 and members would need to book. They were also keen that Roy should visit before the event which I think would be a good idea. **Action BL**

## 17. AOB - All

Date of the next meeting **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 9am Zoom**