

RGS Committee Distance Reports and Zoom meeting: Sunday 2nd May 2021 9am

1. **Apologies for Zoom meeting:** Mike Cooper, Vivien Fowler, Charles Gillbe, Dorcas Johnson and Greg Willcox

2. **Record:** the distance meeting reports from Sunday 4th April 2021 signed off ex-committee

3. **Matters arising not on the agenda:** None

4. Chair's report: (HF)

- i) **Toilets:** They are open and have cleaning duty rotas on both sites. Bob Aveling adjusted the door on site 3 toilet as neither lock engaged but now they do. Many thanks to Bob.
- ii) **AGM location:** The church has been booked for 6pm to 9.30. Is this timing all right? [This was agreed. The timings will be 6 – 7 set up. 7 – 7.30 welcome drinks, 7.30 – 8.30 meeting, 8.30 onwards refreshments.](#)
- iii) **Rent collection:** There are 2 plot holders who have not paid. Several Associate Members have not paid and have been told they will be taken off the membership list if payment is not received by end off 2nd May 2021.
- iv) **Inviting Fleur Anderson to shows and AGM:** I plan to ask Fleur to these events particularly the AGM as it would be good if she did the prize giving.

5. Projects:

Project 1: Communal cabin site 3: progress (JS) Since our last meeting the main developments have been that the talented Bob Aveling has changed the lock to match the site key so that all plot holders may now use the cabin. It is already becoming quite popular with plot holders having picnics and cups of tea in the sun. Thanks to VF and Mark the trellis has been installed and painted on the back fence and VF has planted up the beds and borders. We have been unable to have an "Opening Ceremony" but plan to hold one after 21 June if restrictions are eased.

In the meantime, we still have to finish the landscaping, install air vents (it gets hot in there in the sun!) and erect a plaque to Sonia Sawyer (whose donation made all this possible) ready to unveil at the ceremony.

Budget (HF) All main expenditure was accounted for by our April meeting. Only finishing touches which are not included in the budget.

Project 5: Social area on site 2: Progress (CM) Alan has now finished repairing the tea hut so it can be declared officially open. [CM will send an email to JS who will circulate it.](#) Still a bit of touch up painting to do but that shouldn't hold things up. [C M-B has done a lot of clearing on the path by the toilets. The area is now clear for painting. There are 20 bags of rubbish which need to be disposed of. C M-B is trying to identify the tree and proposed labelling it. It has a TPO and it was agreed to make it a feature of the area. CM-B said that she would try to source some paving slabs for the pathway she is creating for ease of access to the tap from the loo on Site 2. JS mentioned that there were slabs being stacked in Sunnymead Road by workmen who are currently re-laying the paths with different material. She also mentioned that the paving slabs could be taken if delivery to Site 2 could be arranged.](#)

Site 3 Shredder and trading sheds (HF) Charles Held has agreed to lead a working party to lay a base for the new sheds. VF has done drawings for this project. Space is tight and very specific so estimates for bespoke sheds are being sought. We have specified shiplap timbering which has been pressure treated for good preservation. There will be one large shed 14'x4' with a divide in the centre for the composts and the other shed 6' x 5' with a

central dividing wall, one side for the shredder and the other for the mower and shelving for boxed store items. Profits from the store will cover the cost of these sheds .

- 6. Water on site 3:** PC reported that the new water supply on Site 3 is operational; Thames Water having completed their work. Various small defects and outstanding work, including stopping off the existing water supplies, have been reported by PC to Wandsworth Council. A meeting was held on 29 April on Site 3 with PC, HF and both Wandsworth Council and their Contractor to discuss the outstanding work. Remedial actions began after the meeting and the Contractor has agreed to let PC know when all outstanding work has been completed. The priority is to undertake repairs to the new water supply followed by stopping off the existing water supply. PC will continue to monitor the remedial works and report further to the Chairman when works have been completed.
- HF and JS checked the new water system on 30th April - all problems previously found had been corrected. [An email has been sent asking plot holders not to use the old system.](#)
- [Everyone thanked PC for all he has done to provide such an excellent water system on Site 3. Individual plot holders too have expressed their delight!](#)

7. Lease renewal (PC) Regrettably, there has still been no further progress with regard to the renewal of the lease. Both HF and PC have written to Fiona Hallard of Richmond & Wandsworth Council to ascertain the cause of the continuing delays. Ms. Hallard has responded stating that she has been continuing her attempts to obtain the necessary financial information so that she can obtain suitable consent from Enable for the RGS to have a long term, full repairing lease at a peppercorn rent. Once received, she can then prepare a suitable paper for approval by the requisite Wandsworth Council Committee.

Nevertheless, a meeting has been scheduled for 13 May between HF, PC, Alan Strowger and Fiona Hallard so that we can review progress; regardless of whether Ms. Hallard has obtained all the information she requires. PC will report further at the next Committee Meeting in June.

8. Charity application (CMB) Nothing to report

9. Treasurer's report: (DJ)

- **Maintenance Costs** – Total spend this financial year to 31st Mar is **£1,558.75** including April spend of **£740.10** (clearances, lawn mowing, fixing water tank leaks).
- **Annual Rent Payment** — As of 1st May, we've taken **£22,303.98** in annual rent and fees. Ten associate members have been removed from the list for non-payment. One plot holder has yet to pay.

10. Trading Secretary's Report: (GT) We have run low on Composts and Country Natural in April. No New Horizon was available to order until the end of April and we are currently only allowed deliveries of Country Natural every 2 weeks.

There have been further price increases. Clover have just increased their products by 12 and half % and the price for canes has also increased due to more expensive transport costs.

We are trialing a new Compost, Melcourt All Purpose Peat Free Compost. This is similar to the SylvaGrow compost but includes green matter. It will cost £7 for a 50 litre bag.

[JS reminded us all of the huge amount of work done by GT and GW. This week they waited all day for a delivery that didn't arrive. It was rescheduled for 9.30 the next day and arrived at 11.30. It was agreed that payment for deliveries is the way forward, that would provide a timed delivery slot. Everyone thanked them for all they do to manage the Store so efficiently.](#)

11. Allotment Secretaries' reports:

i) Site 2 (C MB): Generally – evidence from the plot inspection on the 29th April indicates that all new plot holders have been working hard on their plots with impressive results.

ii) Site 3: outer area 50-100 (VF) Plots were in a very good condition at our inspections yesterday - with only very few exceptions

Inner area 101-127 (AL) The new plot holders welcomed last month have all been very busy and their plots are in good order. We did the inspections last Thursday. The standard of cultivation is very high, 4 emails have been sent for relatively minor matters.

12. Bulletin Editor's report (CM) Deadline is now 17th May as I want to have a summer show meeting beforehand and include details with the bulletin.

13. Summer Show Chair's report (CM) Meeting to be planned to take place in the next week or so. Still undecided about whether the What to Show in a Show event will take place.

[Mariangela Renshaw will do 'What to Show in the Show' the previous Sunday 6th June.](#)

14. Site Manager's report (CG) Nothing to report

15. Plant sale (VF) charity: (HF) £270 was raised for Wandsworth Food Bank. The money has been sent and acknowledged with a thank you.

16. Weed Walk and Talk: (BL) Roy has agreed to do two weed and folklore walks on July 24th - first to be scheduled for 10:30, second to be scheduled for 1:30 so that he can have a bit of a break in between. He'll arrive at about 10:15 to have a quick look around before he gets started. If there's anything else you'd like him to know or if anything else needs to be done on this please let me know.

16. Events and Diary dates:

- Gardeners' Question time (CG) :
- Sharpening event (HF) 22/05/21
- How to show in the Show 06/06/21
- Summer Show 13/06/21
- Weed Walk and Talk 24/07/22
- Autumn show 11/09/21
- AGM: 12/11/21

17. AOB - All

Date of the next meeting **Sunday 6th June 2021**

[It was agreed to have the June meeting on zoom and hopefully the July meeting will be in the Store at 9am as pre Covid.](#)