

**Agenda for RGS Committee Distance
Reports by Thursday 29th April
Zoom meeting: Sunday 6th June 2021 9am**

Present at Zoom: Alison Linton (host) Helen Finch (Chair), Jackie Savage, Carol Martinez, Patrick Crawford, Gill Tamsett, Dorcas Johnson, Catherine Maunsell-Bower, Charles Gillbe.

1. Apologies for Zoom meeting: Emma Blackwell, Mike Cooper, Vivien Fowler, Brenna Lattimore and Greg Willcox,

2. Record of the distance meeting reports from Sunday May 2021 signed off ex-committee

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

4. Chair's report: (HF)

- i) **Toilets:*** These are now open and the rota of volunteers to clean and monitor them seems to be working well. Bob Aveling kindly adjusted the door on site 3 so it locks properly.
- ii) **Store staffing:*** A new rota has been done for both the main store and the site 3 store. Those who had been on queue duty have agreed to the the second person in the store if and Covid allows.
- iii) **Inviting Fleur to shows and AGM:*** Fleur has responded saying she would like to come to both shows and to the AGM.
- iv) **Sharpening event:*** This went well. Adam was very busy and pleased to do the business. We plan to invite him again next year but not in the autumn.

5. Projects:

Project 1: Communal cabin site 3: progress (JS) The cabin is looking wonderful and is well used. Many thanks to VF for her careful monitoring, keeping it clean and watering the beds. We are still planning to hold an "Opening Ceremony" after 21 June if restrictions are eased. JS researching details of Sonia Sawyer for the plaque ready to unveil at the ceremony.

Project 5: Social area on site 2: Progress (CM) Social area – now being used by plot-holders as the sun has come out. The planter has wild flowers waiting to come up and the second planter will be planted up once emptied of rain water and moved.

Site 3: Shredder and trading sheds (HF) Charles Held has volunteered to manage a working party to prepare the solid base for the sheds so that will just be at cost. He has proposed a concrete base and we, JS, VF, GW and HF intend to meet with him to discuss his proposal. [This was agreed unanimously.](#)

6. Water on site 3 (PC) PC reported that the new water supply on Site 3 is operational and the Contractor has rectified the outstanding defects. Additionally, the existing water supply has been disconnected.

(HF) No billing process has been forthcoming from Castle Water as yet.

7. Lease renewal (PC) A meeting was held on 13 May between HF, PC, Alan Strowger and Fiona Hallard of Richmond and Wandsworth Councils to review progress. Ms Hallard stated that Environment & Community Services (ECS) is the Client Department and they have requested further detailed financial information from their internal accounts department, facilities team and Enable. Once this information has been received, they will meet to obtain instructions on how the Heads of Department wish to proceed. They will either agree our proposals for a new lease which will then go to the requisite Committee or they will refuse. If the latter occurs, then Ms Hallard will be asked to prepare a new lease based upon the terms of the present one although there will be scope for discussions regarding amendments to the new Heads of Terms. Ms Hallard stated that if

our proposals are agreed and she then prepares a paper for Committee, this will be presented at the September meeting.

Of concern to us and which we expressed to Fiona Hallard is that the RGS obtaining a new lease along the lines which we require is dependent primarily on financial grounds and takes no account of the value of work undertaken by the RGS Committee and its members. These concerns have been addressed in separate emails which we have sent both to Fiona Hallard and Cllr Sutters. We will report further once we have heard from Fiona Hallard.

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.

- **Maintenance Costs** – Total spend this financial year to 31st May is **£1,558.75**. There was no new spending on maintenance in May.

10. Trading Secretary's Report: (GT) The Melcourt compost we were hoping to trial has not been in stock, so it has not yet been introduced into the Store.

We had a delivery of root trainers in May. These arrive in kit form which we make up into the 3-part sets. We got a significant discount and so are able to offer these at the same price as they were last bought 3 years ago, at £5.50 per set.

Our main supplier no longer stocks Bayer products. We have replaced Bayer Stump and Bramble killer with SBK Brushwood Killer. Also more weed killers without glyphosate are now available and we will be trialing these over the coming months.

A new Store Rota has been compiled based on 2 people serving behind the counter and dispensing with queue control. This is planned to be introduced from 27 June when it is hoped that restrictions due to Covid will be lifted.

[It was agreed to check that all Store volunteers have been vaccinated.](#)

11. Allotment Secretaries' reports:

i) Site 2 (CMB)

Lettings: none

Generally – Most plots are looking really good and well cultivated.

ii) Site 3:

outer area 50-100 (VF)

Lettings No lettings in May

Plot Inspections: Some plots still requiring attention following April plot inspection emails and letters. Some plots previously in good condition now covered in weeds and not being cultivated. Informal follow up inspection with AL Tuesday 8 June.

Neighbours: Condition of fence and ivy coming from house behind main path causing concern. House owner and Council (it is a Council fence) to be contacted

Inner area 101-127 (AL) There are a lot of weeds on the path from the gate. VF suggests that we trim them off and use a weed killer to prevent re growth.

[This was discussed and as the plot holder never visits the plot the eviction process will be commenced. A Stage 1 letter will be sent with a covering email. The role of the PHP was discussed and their purpose is to assist an elderly or infirm plot holder. AL agreed to look at our rules](#)

concerning PHP's who we agreed should live in the borough. A draught new rule will be prepared (with CMB's help) to be ratified at the AGM.

12. Bulletin Editor's report (CM) deadline 21st June. Will have write up of show and will need to talk about the weed walk and talk to get people interested. BL to send copy. HF drew everyone attention to this date.

13. Show Chair's report (CM) Summer Show: On track for Sunday 13th June. Another reminder email to be sent out mid week asking for cakes, produce and asking people to remember to bring cash.

14. Site Manager's report (CG)

15. Weed Walk and Talk: (BL)

16. Events and Diary dates:

- Gardeners' Question time (CG) :
- Summer Show 13/06/21
- Weed Walk and Talk 24/07/21
- Autumn show 11/09/21
- AGM: 12/11/21

17. AOB - (JS) For information: The WAITING LIST now has approx. 330 people on it, 10% pf whom are existing plot holders waiting for more land. The waiting time is currently about 4 years.

Date of the next meeting **Sunday 4th July 2021 9am** ~~in the store?~~ **Zoom**