

RGS Committee Distance Reports

Zoom meeting: Sunday 4th July 2021 9am

Present: Jackie Savage, Carol Martinez, Helen Finch (Chair, host and Zoom notes) Gill Tamsett, Patrick Crawford, Dorcas Johnson, Catherine Maunsell-Bower, Brenna Lattimore, (Emma Blackwell was admitted to the meeting very late so arrived at the end of the meeting)

1. **Apologies for Zoom meeting:** Charles Gillbe, Alison Linton, Mike Cooper, Vivien Fowler, Greg Willcox.
2. **Record:** of the distance meeting reports from Sunday 6th June 2021 signed off ex-committee
3. **Matters arising not on the agenda:** (HF) Had information from WaterPlus about the new water system on site 3 but have formally requested to sign up with Castle Water. It is still is an administrative process.

4. Chair's report: (HF)

- i) **Paddock School tenancy:** The plot tenanted by Paddock School has been neglected this year. HF wrote to the school reminding them of the bespoke tenancy agreement we had drawn up with them in 2015 in which they agreed they would be prepared to pay a gardener to keep the plot in order over the long summer break. The school have had staffing problems due to Covid and Brendan Walsh who managed the students on the plot has left them. Gary Fogg, the school business manager has asked if we could find a gardener to deal with the plot.
- ii) **Committee photos:** Many thanks to those of you who have sent in photos but there are some missing. The photos are arranged in an ellipse and would be printed on to an A3 sheet. Do we want to go ahead with having these displayed or should we abandon the idea?

There was some resistance to this initiative. It was decided photos should be confined to the Chair and the site secretaries as these are the Committee people that plot holders need to recognise. **Action: HF will liaise with the site secretaries**

5. Projects:

Project 1: Communal cabin site 3: progress (JS) The Opening Ceremony for the Cabin has to be delayed until we are out of lockdown and the schools are back after the Summer Hols. But then we bump into the show on 11 Sept. How about adding a tentative date around the 5 November? Sat 6th Nov? In memory of the bonfires we used to have there. **It was decided to have the ceremony during the summer as members are not going away as much as usual and the facility is primarily used in the summer. Saturday August 7th at 5pm was chosen as the date and time.**

Project 5: Social area on site 2: Progress (CM) nothing to report apart from it being used.

Site 3 Shredder and trading sheds (HF) A shredder was bought for site 3 and has been assembled. It is similar to the site 2 shredder and has been approved by John Ireland who runs the training sessions. VF kindly has negotiated buying the sheds for the shredder, the mower and the mini store for site 3 and they are due to be installed at the beginning of September. JS is organising a meeting with Charles Held to discuss constructing a firm base for the sheds. Costs for materials only.

6. **Lease renewal (PC)** Regrettably, PC has heard nothing further from Fiona Hallard of Richmond & Wandsworth Council with regard to the renewal of the RGS lease. He has written again to her asking for an update as to whether the RGS proposals for a new lease have been accepted. However, PC has heard from Cllr Steffi Sutters confirming that she is aware of our negotiations and has contacted the relevant Councillors on our behalf. PC will, of course, report further once he has heard from Fiona Hallard.

7. Charity application (CMB)

8. Treasurer's report: (DJ)

- **Maintenance Costs** – Total spend this financial year is **£1,698.75**. This includes **£140** spent on grass cutting in June.

- **Summer Show** — Total income was £366.46, expenses were £68.08 and vouchers outstanding are £41.70.

9. Trading Secretary's Report: (GT) A delivery due on 4 June finally arrived on Wednesday 30 June, a day earlier than expected! Luckily Greg Willcox was around to take the delivery. These are serious problems regarding deliveries which used to be so straight forward.

We will be ordering all the composts we can from the company that supplies us with Country Natural who are very reliable, as long as we can book a delivery with them, which is not always possible given that they are so busy. We do book deliveries in advance, but this is sometimes not sufficient to secure a delivery when we would like it.

Some items are still proving to be unavailable. The 6X tubs of poultry manure are now out of stock until the end of the year. Unfortunately the ones ordered as part of the 4 June delivery were lost in transit.

10. Allotment Secretaries' reports:

i) Site 2 (C MB) Lettings: Plot 40C – 2 rods: This plot now has a new PH.

Plot 2B – 2.5 rods: This plot now has a new PH.

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

Plot 40F 2 rods: will be vacated

ii) Site 3: outer area 50-100 (VF)

Lettings: No lettings in June

Plot Inspections: Carried out 29 June. Five emails, 3 no. Stage 1 letters and 1 no. Stage 2 letter sent out. All given two weeks to rectify notifications. One Stage 4 letter to be sent shortly.

Neighbours: Council emailed re ivy growing over fence from 158 DH Rd into main Site 3 entrance path.

Other matters: Rubbish – collection from plots 79A and 83A being carried out 30 June

Inner area 101-127 (AL)

Plot inspections: The rain cut short the inspections on 29th June, we will complete them next Tuesday 6th July. We were all concerned about the huge growth of weeds following all the recent rain.

A Stage 1 letter was sent to making it clear that this was the 1st stage of the eviction process. There was an immediate response, apology and the plot was tidied up to such an extent that we can no longer proceed to evict him.

A draft re wording of Rule for PHPs in 'Offering Plots to let' document:

The purpose of a PHP is to assist/support a plot holder (tenant). A tenant must not use a PHP to exclusively cultivate their plot long term i.e. sub let it. A PHP must be a member of RGS.

If The PHP does not share the same household as the Plot Holder he/she must be on the Primary Waiting List and therefore resident in Wandsworth. A PHP has to work their way up the waiting list and usually will not be permitted to inherit the plot which they partner until they reach the top of the list.

(HF) This will be discussed at the next site secretaries meeting and refined to be taken to the membership at the AGM. JS clarified that most PHPs shared the same household and the PHP had no interest in inheriting the PH's plot. HF said there are a few problems currently with PHPs which are not covered by our current Policy in 'Offering Plots to Let'. Problems observed are : i) the PHP exclusively working the plot therefore possibly the PH is subletting the plot, ii) the PHP not resident in Wandsworth iii) allowing PHP to

inherit plot after 3 years no longer reflects the length of our waiting list now it is much longer. The draft new rule attempted to address these problems. Members of the committee raised concerns about PHPs possibly thinking they have a right to inherit the plot they have been working when at the top of the waiting list. Also there were concerns about '*usually will not be permitted to inherit the plot*' as this could be misinterpreted. However a need for some discretion was appreciated. It was decided that: **Action: HF and the site secretaries** would discuss this issue in their next meeting due soon and will report back at the next committee meeting in September.

11. Bulletin Editor's report (CM) I have said in current bulletin that 26th July is deadline for next one (after weed walk and talk) in case there is anything to report but I am not sure there will be another bulletin until towards the end of August which will contain the schedule for the autumn show. Say deadline is Tuesday 31st August.

12. Show Chair's report (CM) Autumn Show: Hoping it can go ahead on 11th September. I will call a meeting end July / early August to make plans.

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

14. Plant Walk and Talk: (HF) So far we have 5 signed up for 10.30 and 1 for 13.30. We will send out an email to advertise it to fill both slots. Do any committee members want to join? *Carol said she would like to join the 10.30 session. JS agreed to send out an email to all members advertising the event.* **Action:** HF to send a draft email to JS

15. Events and Diary dates:

- Gardeners' Question time (CG) :
- Weed Walk and Talk 24/07/21
- Site 3 communal centre opening ceremony
- How to show at the show Sunday 05/09/21
- Autumn show 11/09/21
- AGM: 12/11/21

16. AOB - All. CM asked for 'Show how to Show' to be added to the events and calendar.

Date of the next meeting **Sunday 5th September 2021 9am in the store?**