

Agenda for RGS In Person Committee meeting
Reports by Thursday 30th September
Sunday 3rd October 2021 9am in the store

1. Apologies: Greg Willcox, Gill Tamsett, Patrick Crawford, Emma Blackwell, Charles Gillbe, Mike Cooper
Present: [Helen Finch \(Chair\)](#), [Jackie Savage](#), [Carol Martinez](#), [Vivien Fowler](#), [Alison Linton](#), [Catherine Maunsell-Bower](#), [Dorcas Johnson](#)

2. Record of the meeting from Sunday 5th September 2021 signed off ex-committee

3. Matters arising not on the agenda:

- **Water billing for site 3:** PC had agreed to chase Castle Water but on Monday after our last committee meeting HF was contacted by Castle Water who said documentation would be sent. None has been received.
- **PHP review:** The site secretaries met and agreed to keep PHPs and for this wording on the 'Offering Plots to Let' procedure:

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 an Associate 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 will not be permitted to inherit the plot which they partner until they reach the top of the list.

This change in wording was discussed back in July at the committee meeting but the contentious word 'usually' has been taken out to avoid any expectation of inheriting the plot. This new wording will be taken to the AGM in November for agreement with the membership.

4. Chair's report: (HF)

- i) **Committee 2021/22:** I am very pleased to say I have not had any committee members deciding to leave the committee other than Brenna. I plan to invite several other plot holders to stand for the committee as we do need to plan for the future. [Several names were suggested.](#)
- ii) **AGM 12/11/21:** We will need to publicise the AGM a month before the event and invite members to volunteer for the committee so they all have an opportunity to join. Those continuing to serve on the Committee for 2021/22 will be published at this time. Each committee member will need to get a nominator preferably a non-committee member [but the nominator does not need to be present at the AGM.](#) At the AGM seconds will be requested for each committee member from the floor. A week before the AGM papers from the Chair, the Treasurer, the site secretaries, Waiting list Secretary, the show chair and the trading secretary will be put on the website and the members sent an email inviting them to read the papers. I do not think it appropriate for our accounts to be on www. What do others think? I would be in favour of a descriptive paper from the Treasurer and the accounts to be presented at the AGM as usual. [It was decided that the accounts will be published along with the other papers a week before the AGM.](#) Questions from the floor will be invited at the AGM about the papers the membership will have read.
catering: Attendees at the AGM have a drink and nibbles before the business starts then we have more drinks and light food afterwards. Any volunteers to organise this? [AL kindly offered to coordinate the food etc \(napkin, paper plates\) some of which may be purchased as party food from Waitrose. VF kindly volunteered to coordinate the wine, beer and soft drinks and glasses. Thank you both. Our booking in the church starts at 6pm ends at about 9.30. Members arrive at 7pm, business at 7.30, prize giving 8.15.](#)
- iii) **RGS centenary celebrations:** any ideas? We have an offer from Richard Sudell's granddaughter to participate (see agenda item 15). [AL suggested having a special AGM with a presentation of our history which was thought to be a very good idea. JS agreed to research it. Many thanks, Jackie.](#)
- iv) **Clean air fair:** This was a very jolly event organised by Fleur Anderson. We had a stall to be proud of. Vivien assembled lots of produce which was given away at the end in exchange for donations.

Many thanks to Vivien, Carol, Jackie and Jackie's granddaughter Holly for helping out and manning the stall.

- v) **Appeal policy and procedure:** At the recent Appeal Hearing it came to light that the Appeal Procedure in the Breaches of Tenancy Agreement, The Tenancy Agreement and Rules document and in the Complaints Procedure were not synchronised. To avoid this happening again the full description of the Appeals Procedure will be removed from these documents and CMB has kindly agreed to draft a separate Appeals Procedure document. This needs to be ready in agreed draft form for the AGM **Action CMB**
- vi) **Paddock School:** plot 85 is let to Paddock School and when Brendan left the school the plot was neglected. The School hired Artan to clear the plot over the summer holidays and have agreed for him to continue to work it during all school holidays. A volunteer from the school, Annie Rey during term time is supervising how the plot is cultivated. VF, HF Artan and Annie met this week to develop a working relationship and mutual understanding of how the plot should be managed. The plan is for students from the school to come on site twice a week - Senior school students on Mondays and Junior on Wednesdays.

5. Projects:

Site 3 Shredder and trading sheds (HF) We now have good substantial sheds for the mini store on site 3. Greg is planning to make some shelving inside one of the sheds to store boxes and bottles of goods. We also have a new card reader with a touch screen that is much easier to see in sunlight. The shredder is now in the shed but we need a ramp as it is difficult to get the shredder in and out of the shed. The power socket has been installed inside the shed for safety.

6. Bike racks: (EB)

7. Lease renewal (PC) PC has heard further from Fiona Hallard of Richmond & Wandsworth Council with regard to the renewal of the RGS lease. Having completed her draft paper, which was sent to the Client Department, ECS, they requested further information and clarifications. Ms Hallard provided this information and asked for an update as to when ECS would respond and provide a suitable timetable for the renewal of the Lease by the RGS.

No response has been received from ECS and PC, on behalf of the RGS, has stated to Fiona Hallard that the RGS are being treated with a lack of sense of priority by ECS. As such, he has asked Ms. Hallard for suitable contact details so that the RGS can write to ECS expressing their concern. Once these details have been received, PC will write to them in hopes of progressing matters. Consideration is also being given to contacting Cllr. Sutters and the President of the RGS, Fleur Anderson, MP to enlist their support and assistance.

01/10/21 Fiona Hallard has now confirmed that ECS have received the information they require and that Ms. Hallard's draft report is being circulated for comments to all the other relevant departments within the Council. Her report recommends that the RGS be granted a 30 year lease at a peppercorn rent. Once Ms. Hallard receives the result of the consultation, she will write to PC and this information will be conveyed to the Committee. **This news was greeted with a lot of enthusiasm as it is a very positive step. HF will ask Fiona Hallard when we might expect the report to go to the Council Committee meeting?**

8. Charity application (CMB)

9. Treasurer's report: (DJ) September 2021 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 is **£2,717.39** including this month's spend of **£330.00** (grass cutting, removal of bay tree).

10. Trading Secretary's Report: (GT) We have a large delivery scheduled for Tuesday 5 October. Most items appear to be in stock except for garden rubbish bags. We will no longer be selling Sulphate of Ammonia once the current stock has been sold or disposed of.

The spring bulbs have sold well. Garlic, Shallots and Onions are now on sale at the Store.

JS and GWT and Georgina O'Reilly did stock checks last week for the end of the financial year.

11. Allotment Secretaries' reports:

i) Site 2 (C MB) Lettings:

Plot 28B – 2.5 rods: This plot now has a new PH.

Plot 35B – 2.5 rods: This plot now has a new PH.

Plot 40E – 2 rods: This plot now has a new PH.

Plot 40F – 2 rods: This plot now has a new PH.

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

ii) Site 3: outer area 50-100 (VF) Plot 91 has been divided and 91B let.

Inner area 101-127 (AL) Plot 108C This plot has been relinquished and is now incorporated into 108A making that plot 5 rods.

Paths

These continue to be a problem especially in the inner area where they are very uneven and often unsafe. We ask all new plot holders to take care of them but the problems are sometimes caused by longer term plot holders who seem to have forgotten the rules!!

12. Bulletin Editor's report (CM) Next deadline is after the AGM. 16th November. I am not sure what else will go in the bulletin as they are changing. Will there be a chair's report? Perhaps it is pertinent for after the AGM.

Newsletter (JS) We had a few teething problems with the scheduling of the Bulletin and the Newsletters. But they complement each other well. Still need to send emails to all members from time to time (eg when the garlic etc came into the store), but trying to keep these to a minimum.

13. Show Chair's report (CM) Autumn Show: It was good to have a live show again and see things nearly back to normal. There were some entries from people who don't always enter but we do need to try and get others to enter as it is primarily the same old names every time. Ideas? [To have a 'How to Show at the Show event' about a week before the shows. This had been planned for this year but cancelled due to Covid concerns.](#) CM commented that everyone who had an entry in the show got a prize.

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

15. Visit by Michael Gilson (JS) Michael Gilson's was a success. He came to the Show and to the Store the next day. He introduced us to Sudell's granddaughter who told us the family would be delighted to be included in some way in our Centenary celebrations next year. Michael spoke to several of our members including Christine Wolski, Lindley Maitland and Janis Humberstone who were very helpful for his research.

16. Events and Diary dates:

- Gardeners' Question time (CG): The joint application with the Putney Society has gone in to the BBC and been acknowledged.
- AGM: 12/11/21
- Seed swap January 2022: Best to delay a year. Too late to get message re saving seeds to potential participants to do it properly.

17. AOB - (VF) – November Rubbish Collection. As I remember we were going to see if we could arrange it ourselves, and separate green waste from the rest. At the moment it all goes to landfill apparently – so bad environmentally, producing methane and burying all those plastic bags forever. Our domestic waste is all burnt at a plant further down the river and our green waste is recycled at Wandsworth tip. Is this something we could get Michael to do and claim the money back from Enable?

I'm ok to take it on if I can be pointed in the right direction.

Also hopefully the new shredder will reduce the green waste. [There is some uncertainty about the](#)

destination of all the rubbish as domestic waste is incinerated down river to generate power. HF agreed to try to find out for sure whether the rubbish does go to landfill and the cost of collecting from our 2 sites. If the rubbish is destined for landfill then we should explore the possibility of dealing with the rubbish ourselves if Enable will give us the money they had budgeted for taking RGS's rubbish.

Date of the next meeting **Sunday 7th November 2021 9am**

Colour coding:

- pre-meeting reports in black
- Notes from the actual meeting in blue