

EALING DEAN ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING. TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 19.30

PRESENT: Crispin Harris, Simon Coleman, Jon Wilkins. Christina Fox , Kim Thompsett, Hilary Wright.

Apologies from Mardien Drew and Christine Charles.

SECTION A

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes were accepted and the points arising are noted in the various reports apart from:

- *Rubbish is ongoing*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairs report – May 2015

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Plots rented out:<br>152B (Anne's old plot) | Plots available:<br>Plot 168A |
|---|-------------------------------|

1. Of the thirteen letters I sent out in April, to people on the waiting list – either their phone + email didn't work or was non existent. I have now had five replies in total.
2. Plot 168A – spoke to him on 28<sup>th</sup> March - assured me he would be working on the plot in the next two weeks. He didn't. (Christine spoke to him too as he had not paid his rent). Non cultivation letter hand delivered Sunday evening 19<sup>th</sup> April. Plus further reminder about the rent. Termination letter hand delivered on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May as no work done on the plot at all this year and no plan received.
3. Sunflower seeds handed out to allotment children – around 20 are going to have a go.

4. Meeting with Alison Jones (Pathways), Bettina, Don (Haslemere), Christine and myself at Lido house on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May.
- Bettina asked for copy of spreadsheet to find out who had not paid at Haslemere. Haider is busy at the moment with an audit – so Alison suggested we give 5 days notice if we want this sort of information. We have had this info for some time - so, I sent Haslemere an old (8<sup>th</sup> April) version.
  - Bettina also asked about water meter reading. They had read Haslemere's meter and passed on info to Pathways. I mentioned we read the meter and contact Thames Water direct.
  - They will consider if we can use the plots for photo shoots to make some extra money for maintenance.
  - At the last Pathways meeting we asked for clarification on bonfire times as it is not clear in the tenancy agreement. Alison did not have the answer for this meeting. I have stressed we need to know as soon as possible as everyone will be having bonfires in the next few months.
  - Reported on our committee discussion on what makes an orchard – will liaise with Haslemere committee.
  - Mentioned we will start to get commercial waste collection and will report back on how it goes.
  - Mentioned break-ins and rough sleeper. Alison suggested we talk to the people at St John's Church as they may have contacts that can help.
  - Alison mentioned that at one of their meetings someone suggested some of the plots were looking "untidy". I suggested those people could come along to a volunteer session to help out ;-). That way they could find out for themselves how long it takes to clear up a whole site. I will add them to the volunteer list!!!

After the Pathways meeting – Christine and I did a site inspection. See Secretary's report for list of non-cultivation letters and reminder letters to be sent out.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Bank Account has approx. £1200 in it.

- £500 has been paid in and the skips have been paid
- Pathways money will come in one cheque.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

(ongoing) Christine is continuing to check any Communications coming in to Pathways. Because of the system in Pathways it takes a little while to get confirmation to Christine on payments etc.

"Applications still coming in steadily as are the plot payments. Haider updating us as new ones come in. Most are now paid. I suggest that I produce a detailed update at our next (June) meeting on paying patterns with suggestions for next year.

A good meeting with Pathways on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

I missed the beginning, these are my notes

- 1) Amendment to agreement that they are responsible for repairs and will get quotes – it was agreed that we (the management teams for both sites) might be able to do some repairs more economically.
- 2) It was proposed that there should be a maximum of 2 trees per half plot as from an agreed date for all ploholders. Existing trees will not be required to be removed unless of course they constitute an 'orchard'.
- 3) Pathways to clarify Bonfire times ASAP (N.B. this was a request from the last quarterly meeting – still not addressed by Pathways!)
- 4) Water- each site to decide on timings for turn on/off with the default being 1<sup>st</sup> May and (?) 1<sup>st</sup> Oct
- 5) Rough sleepers- it was suggested we could talk to the church regarding this as they run a soup kitchen and have contact with those who are , perhaps, using our site.
- 6) Fund raising – photo shoots and location parking Alison will consult with the SMT regarding this.

#### Site inspection 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Christina and I inspected the site.

All the following were sent an email apart from 2 who do not have one registered with us.

Letters went out as well to make sure the message was received. Apart from 3 who responded very quickly to the email before the letters were posted!

#### 5 plots which required a non-cultivation letter:

**147B**

**153A**

**155B**

**156A** – responded that she had been ill and was going away to recuperate for 5 weeks so could not deal with the plot till mid June. I sympathised with her ill health and asked her to let us know what her

plans where to control the grass in her absence and suggested either covering it or getting Declan to help while she was away

**157**

8 plots which needed a 'reminder' letter:

**153B**

**162** – Reggie said he has done more this w/e and will talk to Declan re strimming.

**171B**

**174**

**200A**

**201**

**204** – Matt said he had done some more work and his strimmer had been stolen. Wanted to borrow one 'for free' I responded that I doubted that Declan would wish to loan out his machine and he must talk to Declan . Did not respond to his suggestion that he borrow ours 'for free' !

**227** – David responded that he has been working the plot and will get Declan to deal with the strimming as his machine is broken."

#### MAINTENANCE REPORT AND UP-DATES

- Volunteer day was very successful. The North part of the Long Walk was tackled. It needs to settle but the planned for turf was enough.
- (on-going) Simon has decided which Volunteer days will be "Allotment" and which "Radbourn Walk" These will be on the calendar.
- The hedgerow will be the next project including trimming any protruding branches.
- TREE SURGEON to advise on willows.

#### JON'S REPORT

Jon would like there to be more content on the web-site and for it to be updated more frequently. With his monitoring he would like more people to contribute to the blog.

#### ROUGH SLEEPERS

The discussion created questions rather than answers.

- Is there a deterrent?
- Barbed wire has one purpose ; to harm so is not ideal or always lawful
- Roses as a protection?
- Contact with the police?

- Contact with the Church and "Homeless" Organisations.

#### PUMP PROJECT

- 3 of the 4 pumps are now done
- Simon says that 155A is his best work
- 161B still to do.

#### OPEN DAY PLANNING

Christina is going to send out an e-mail to ask for help and expertise for the Open Day.

- Allotment awards to give people an incentive to visit a variety of plots
- Allotment Bingo

#### NOTICE BOARD UPDATES

- LEFT for year round news
- MIDDLE for History
- RIGHT for events.

Banner for the Open Day to be there in advance for the Northfields Summer Fun day.

#### NEWSLETTER

Topics that might be covered.

- Bonfires
- Hose-pipes
- What we are doing
- Open Day
- Metal Collection

#### AOB

- Experien funding
- Various organisations have volunteers to be involved in Community Projects. E.g Capital Growth. How to make best use of them?

#### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June.