

EALING DEAN ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING. TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 19.30

PRESENT: Crispin Harris, Simon Coleman, Jon Wilkins. Christina Fox , Hilary Wright, Mardien Drew ,Kim Thompsett and Christine Charles.

SECTION A

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes were accepted.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairs report – August/September 2015

Termination letter sent to plot 147. New tenant already signed up.

Plot 236B tenant has been offered a plot at Haslemere and will be leaving once she has harvested her plot.

Plot 156A has emailed to say she is giving up her plot as it has become too much work for her.

Sadly the plot holder of 174 has died. We are going to send a letter of condolence to his family and ask if they want us to sort out anything he planted on the plot and anything he may have left. (It may be a job for a volunteer day.)

Sylvie and Trevor of plot 170A are moving out of London and will be giving up their plot in the next few months.

Mr Flanagan's Plot 241 will become available in October – they agreed with Pathways to only pay 6months rent in return for putting their scaffolding on the plot while their building work was being completed in Mattock Lane.

Plots rented out:  147 157B 168A	Plots available:  156A 158B 170A available next month or two 174 236B
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	241 will become available in Oct
Waiting list >> 72 people	

This month I've been busy with the open day preparations. Luckily the week before the open day was a quiet time for me as clients were on holiday. But if we do this again we will need to get more volunteers on board earlier to delegate tasks.

Twenty one people asked to go on the waiting list as a result of the open day and one asked to go on the volunteer list. I have sent application forms to all of them. To date - five people have returned their application forms.

I attended the Ealing Allotment Partnership committee meeting. Stephen Cole the Council's allotment manager has been made redundant and will be leaving in October. This could mean big changes for all the council allotments as they may now have no choice but to move to self management.

A group of us went to Framfield Allotments on a wildlife walk and talk - led by John Wells. It is a very big site with a wonderful pond, slow worms and newts.

Letter was sent to plot 194 regarding the path between 194 and 196. They were given four weeks (ie until Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September) to completely reinstate the path which they started digging up in November 2014. We need to make sure that all committee members check the work done as this is a

Plot holder on 223B was sent a non-cultivation letter and then a termination letter. He did spend some time talking to Christine about this and then the next day to me (Jon W was also present). He is keen to keep the plot. So, we have come to an agreement, which I have put in writing in a letter and email - also included with my correspondence was a copy of the tenancy agreement on which I highlighted those sections which were in breach...

*Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015*

**RE: Plot number 223B non-cultivation and tenancy termination**

*It was fortuitous that we would bump into each other this morning on the path by Jon Wilkins' plot.*

*We have agreed that by Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September you will write to me:*

- With a plan of your plot and what you will be cultivating*
- A schedule of what will be done*
- ...and a date when it will be completed*
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*If I do not receive any correspondence from you by Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015 the termination letter will stand and you will vacate the plot as you are currently in breach of the tenancy agreement you signed.*

*Priority should be given to those items mentioned in the committee letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> August 2015.*

*Please note I will be in Amsterdam, on business, on the 12<sup>th</sup> September – so please contact me by email at [chair@ealingdean.co.uk](mailto:chair@ealingdean.co.uk). To be on the safe side you may wish to copy in Jon at [webmaster@ealingdean.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@ealingdean.co.uk)*

*We also agreed that if the 12<sup>th</sup> September letter is received, but the work is not carried out as outlined, then the termination letter will again come into force and you will vacate the plot as you will still be in breach of the tenancy agreement you signed.*

*If there are unforeseen circumstances or "Acts of God" that prevent you keeping to the schedule you will inform the committee as soon as possible. We will then review the schedule.*

*However, if your unforeseen circumstances look like being a long term distraction from the allotment it is usual in these circumstances to ask the plotholder to quit the plot and go back on the waiting list until they have sufficient time to devote to the plot.*

*I do hope you'll take advantage of this second chance. I look forward to receiving your email on the 12<sup>th</sup> September.*

I have been contacted by Evelyn Gloyn at Ealing council about the crowdsourcing campaign for the Radbourne Walk. Plotholder Natalie

Roberts has agreed to take this on and so she will now be the main point of contact.

I have contacted Frances Thompson (via the Project Dirt website) she left the following message..."I'm looking for some gardeners who are willing to show me around their handiwork (past and present), or who would be agreeable to telling me about their gardening projects and experiences of guerrilla gardening, via email, phone, or in person.

These interviews will go towards my undergraduate research project at the University of Oxford into the nature of public space in cities.

See more at: [http://www.projectdirt.com/person/15507/frances-thompson#!/journal\\_entry/38199](http://www.projectdirt.com/person/15507/frances-thompson#!/journal_entry/38199)"

Received a letter from plot 219 and 221 about the willow trees and bonfires. Reply below sent by post and by email to her daughter.

*Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015*

*Firstly my apologies for the slow response. From the address I see your letter went to the Pathways office – which does tend to slow things down. If possible communications direct to me via email is best. Now that I have a valid email from your daughter, I can ensure you are kept up to date.*

*Pleased be assured I know the problem with the trees and we are looking into it. I have started speaking to tree surgeons about pruning all the willow trees (we have four on site). This is a specialist job and could not be carried out by volunteers who are not suitably equipped. I am awaiting quotes. However, it is expected it will be expensive, probably around £600-800 per tree.*

*Next I need to get Pathways on board. As you are aware this can be a slow process. They are responsible for paying for any work done to the trees.*

*If you can provide me with a letter about your concerns regarding the willow tree I can use that, and the tree surgeons report, to ensure funding.*

*Finally, pruning trees can only be done at certain times of the year. It is illegal to tamper with trees in which there may be nesting birds. We could be prosecuted and fined up to £5,000.*

*So, sadly I do not have a definite date of when work can be carried out. But, the wheels are in motion.*

*Regarding fires on the plot. No one should be leaving fires unattended, or burning green or wet material. If you know who is doing this please let me know and I will have a quiet word with them.*

*In regards to the hours for lighting fires... The current tenancy rule does not make sense, it gives a start time but no end time. I attend meetings every three months with Pathways and have asked for clarification on this matter at the February and May meeting – but I am still waiting for an answer. Ealing bylaws do not help us either. There are no restrictions on times. So, unfortunately anyone can have a bonfire whenever they like. However, they must extinguish it when asked – if it is causing a nuisance.*

*We have another quarterly meeting with Pathways coming up in September. I will ask again for them to clarify bonfire timings.*

*If you have any other questions or concerns do get in touch. As soon as I have more information I will let you know.*

I have now received a reply from Bertrand the tree surgeon and I will be asking for two further quotes from two more recommended tree surgeons once I am back from my business trip.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Bank Account has £4053.40 in it.

The Open day generated income from ;

- The plant sale £85
- The cake stall (after expenses) £270

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Christine is going to check if the "Grass Team" still want to do it.

Possible synchronisation with Volunteer Days so it can all be mown in one go.

#### MAINTENANCE REPORT AND UP-DATES

- Volunteer day was very successful. "Boundary Clearance" and rubbish. Hedges
- (on-going) Simon has decided which Volunteer days will be "Allotment" and which "Radbourne Walk" These will be on the calendar. November will be Radbourne
- October the grass to be "aerated" and sand put down
- Christina to investigate a "machine" to help

#### JON'S REPORT

Web-site has been up-graded and all is fine

Facebook is very successful and people are posting pictures etc.

#### POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

#### OPEN DAY

- Better than our highest expectations
- Tea and cake very successful
- We were helped with the press article about Simon's air-raid shelter project.
- Guided walk needs a re-think to accommodate numbers
- We know what it is for us now, so planning has a precedent.
- What will make next year special?
- When should it be? More to see on the plots earlier in the year.

#### NON-CULTIVATION LETTERS

We need a more formal process so that everyone knows where they are and it does not become about personalities.

- Review of the sites
- Cultivation Reminder
- Allotment Cultivation Form
- Non- Cultivation Letter and a presented "Plan"
- Termination

## SKIPS

- Some concern about skips being used for rubbish from off-site
- A quicker turn-round

## BONFIRE TIMINGS

Christine and Christina have been trying to get an answer about the timings for bonfires for months. They are now going to suggest timings;

- Monday to Friday 11am-5pm
- Saturday and Sunday 10am-1pm

## SHEDS

- Clarification of size
- Condition of the "Heath Robinson" conglomerations.
- Safety of them
- An on-going process.

## TREES

Plans for various trees that need Maintenance/Pollarding or removal to be negotiated with Pathways.

## AGM

- Timetable of what needs to be done when
- Check with David re Constitution etc
- Later in the year rather than January.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER? TBC