

EALING DEAN ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING. TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEB 19.30

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

APOLOGIES: Kim Thompsett

SECTION A

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- The minutes were accepted.

**From Last Minutes as a reminder**

- *Possible date for next year's Open Day. We are looking at Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June as nothing is clashing.*
- *Annual General Meeting. Materials/Information to go to plotholders about a month before.*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Plots rented out:	Plots available:  244A 241 we used this plot to chip the wood from the pollarded willows.
Waiting list >>> 67 people  Person at the top of the list joined in February 2014	

Spoke to Alison Jones - Invoices to plotholders should be organised soon. I have volunteered to stuff envelopes – in return I would like to add a page about the AGM.

I called the council Pollution Control Service on Monday 8th Feb after a complaint by a local resident about our bonfire on plot 241 on the corner of Mattock Lane. I spoke to Jo Edwards 020 8825 6299. He confirmed that there are to time restriction on having a bonfire and that it is not unreasonable for us to have bonfires on site. If a formal complaint was made they would visit the homeowner (within an hour) and check if the smoke was a nuisance in their house or garden. I have given him my contact details should they have any questions for us in the future.

The council's advice to its own ploholders are on the website and state...  
*"Ploholders may have bonfires to burn diseased plants and material which is difficult to compost, but may not burn material that may harm the soil –no paint, bitumen (roofing felt), plastics, etc. The bonfire must be managed safely at all times and must be left in a safe condition when the ploholder leaves the site. A bonfire must not be allowed to create a nuisance to other tenants or neighbours. Please think about the timing of your bonfire. Having a bonfire on a sunny bank holiday weekend is likely to cause more nuisance than at the end of a dull day in January. Complaints about bonfires are investigated by the pollution control service and can result in a fixed penalty notice, legal action and the termination of the allotment tenancy."*

I've had several meeting with the potager volunteers. I needed the apple trees pruning and thought it might be a good opportunity for the volunteers to learn about managing fruit trees. So, on Sunday, Simon ran a tree pruning workshop which everyone really enjoyed. We explained the different tools required (secateurs, loppers, saws and chainsaws) and then Simon demonstrated how to prune and what needed to be done to keep a tree healthy and productive. Then we let them loose on the second tree. They were all a bit nervous to start with and they asked loads of questions. Simon guided them if they weren't sure which branch to cut. In the end they all felt much more confident and could see the point of opening up the tree.

When we stood back it was obvious the trees looked so much better. They all agreed that it had been a really good session and they learnt a lot.

I'd like to see this as a test run – and hopefully run a similar workshop for all our ploholders.

Attended the Ward Forum Meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. I gave a quick update on the Radbourne Walk and explained that we had had two volunteer sessions there (one before and one after Christmas). The Ward Forum has a budget of around £70,000 to spend on Walpole projects. I had asked at the previous meeting if we could have some of the Ward Forum money for a composting toilet. I handed out info to the councilors about the Dunster House toilet. Hopefully we will get some money.

We have an injured fox on site. Yasmin has arranged for a trap from the National Fox Welfare Society. Hopefully we can trap it and get its injuries looked at.

I emailed Fielding school about our open day. They have passed on my message to the year 6 teachers – but I haven't received a reply. I think it would be really nice to get a school involved. Perhaps there is another way to involve a school.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

*From last minutes*

We need an update on the balance.

We also need the audited accounts for the AGM

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

- Christine has done the letter about the AGM which is going to be enclosed with the new Tenancy Agreement Letter.
- She has sent out the enquiry about the Mission Statement of the Aims and Objectives of the various charities that rent plots. This is a

request from Pathways. Westside has replied; Age UK is awaiting its new business plan; Rise's Director has been dealing with ill health in recent months.

## MAINTENANCE REPORT AND UP-DATES

- February. Clear up of Radbourne. Metal rakes fine with the leaves. Everybody worked very hard and much was achieved.
- March. *"Infills of Hedgerow with saplings from the Woodland Trust."* Unfortunately, the saplings are not forthcoming but the clearing up of the Northfields avenue side will continue.
- There will be a survey of the hedge using the fence post numbers as a guide.
- Need to plan for the next year's skips
- The Apple Tree on 229 has now been pruned
- Simon is going to re-paint the Notice board at the Mattock lane End.
- The sand is half gone.

## JON'S REPORT

### **Ongoing from last months minutes**

*Web-site "all is fine" and Jon is hopeful that in the Winter months there will be more additions and amendments.*

*Facebook is very successful and people are posting pictures etc.*

*Open Day needs a presence on the web-site.*

- Mailchimp is proving a good move
- Spam removal seems to be working

## SECTION B

### POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Composting toilets. ( From last minutes) *Much discussion about the research into a new company. Outcome was that we will eventually need 2 at 1200 pounds each. Would they be cheaper if Hazelmere wanted one as well?* Simon has done the floor plan to create the

base in readiness and it will be situated adjacent to the heritage plot.

- The Heritage Plot Volunteers have met and are deciding on plants.
- *Agenda for the AGM which will be on Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 19.00pm*  
*Mailing to people with no e-mail. Time Date Location. Asking the plot holders what they would like the budget to be used on and suggestions for Officers.*
- Climbers for the Radbourne Walk
- Repairing the tarmac and “Muddy Bits”
- Litter Picking again in March
- Yarrow is growing well, plan to increase it; Cow Parsley where the Willows were
- **ARE WE THE OLDEST ALLOTMENT IN WEST LONDON?** We are looking for artefacts, objects on the plot or in local history archives to relate to our Foundation in 1832. We want to include things in the Guided Walk

NEXT MEETING **WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**