

EALING DEAN ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING. WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 19.30

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

APOLOGIES: Crispin Harris, Christine Charles

SECTION A

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- The minutes were accepted.
From Last Minutes as a reminder
 - Christina to talk to Haslemere allotments about the option to buy composting toilets together. This is the only outstanding action from the last meeting.
 - No matter arising

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Plots rented out: 241 244A	Plots available: 217B (plothead on 217 has gone from a full to a half)
Waiting list >>> 69 people	
Person at the top of the list joined in February 2014	

Went to a breakfast meeting at county hall. The aim was to bring together charities and business. I think in some ways we are not really their target audience. We are not a large charity which needs help with our strategic vision. But, it was an interesting gathering and I did hear one really good pearl of wisdom. The token business guy who spoke said that we should not just tell business *WHAT* we do – buy *WHY* we do it. That may seem like a small thing to take away from a 2 hour session – but the more I thought about it I realized it was an important way to get our message out to people.

Christine and I stuffed some envelopes for Pathways. Everyone should now have their rent invoice and our AGM announcement. The deadline for rent payment is 23rd March. I'll contact Haider after the deadline to see who has not paid.

Helped Yasmin rescue an injured fox. I have posted on Facebook and freecycle for some dog cages/carriers – that we could use for injured foxes in the future. There has been a good response – will pick them up over the weekend. That way we will have somewhere to put injured foxes until help arrives.

Attended the Ealing Allotment Partnership AGM on Tuesday 8th March.

I sent out the Non-Cultivation Guidelines via mailchimp on the 10th February. It was sent to 112 plot holders and to date 62 people have opened it.

I also sent out a mailchimp email about the volunteer day to 193 people.

53 plot holders and 38 waiting list people opened it.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

See accounts overview from Kim.

- Kim shared overview of accounts during the meeting. There is a £7 difference in the accounts which Kim will be looking into further.
- Any outstanding expenses will need to be submitted beginning of April in order to be ready with the accounts for the AGM.
- When submitting expenses, it needs to be confirmed whether the expense is for a Volunteer Day (and if so for which date) or Radbourne Walk.
- Simon to tell Kim what 2015 expenses were for Radbourne Walk vs allotments.
- Kim reviewed the constitution and it appears we do not need to formally have our accounts audited. There is some ambiguity over whether this can be done by a committee member but we have now all reviewed the accounts overview and we only have small accounts (under £10K)

- Christina to contact Ward Forum to obtain confirmation of funds available to be used for composting toilet as we don't currently have enough for two.
- We are ready for the AGM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

- Not present

MAINTENANCE REPORT AND UP-DATES

- March Volunteer day. Cleared the hedgerow. This year we had less to clear but more digging actually brought up a lot of rubbish. We even found a bottle from 1935!
- April Volunteer Day. We will be doing more of the hedgerow clearing bit this time it will be the other side of the site.. This side has never been cleared and is a bit of a jungle. We also plan to get 'the road to Humphries field seeded.

JON'S REPORT

Ongoing from last month's minutes

Web-site "is still going", nothing else to report. It's a bit stagnant in terms of content.

The site needs to be updated with info on the AGM and the date when water is back on.

SECTION B

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Mail chimp. Christina likes it as it allows you to create your own email with photos etc. You can set up your campaign with list of people to send to and you can get stats on readership. We can see that half of the people who we send the non-cultivation mail too have opened that email. We can increase visibility by posting these docs on the website and Facebook too and mentioning it at the AGM. When we have rent cheques paid we can check for updated email addresses by comparing email lists and who is on Facebook. Simon volunteered to do this.
- Sheds. Now that people have paid rent and signed their new agreements, we need to stick to the new rules. Therefore oversized and dangerous sheds will need to go. Those who are moving plots

will be required to take down oversized and old ones and replace with an 'approved by committee' shed. E.g. the one on plot 167 is not deemed safe and is oversized. Health and safety is easily enforceable so all sheds need to be safe. This needs to be added to our best practice documentation which Hilary will do. Christina to look at existing shed related documentation and will send to Hilary to work with. Christine and Christina will do a shed inspection onsite after the rents have been paid.

- Foxes. Another injured fox with 2 broken legs due to a car crash (see report). Christina put a note on Facebook and freecycle and now we have 5 carriers. We will put them with strategic people inc gloves and instructions (fox care package for future injured foxes).
- Native hedgerow plan. Northfields hedgerow (1833) plan to clear rubbish from hedgerow. Fill in gaps. To be planted: Hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, hazel, dog rose, geld rose. (£124 spent). These are testers – if they do well then we can use elsewhere. We may next year get saplings from woodland trust. Simon and Christina to do a mail chimp on the hedgerow.
- Tree surgery. Lime trees on plot 195. Simon drilled holes to test if the tree was ok. It was so no further action. Composting toilets are an upcoming expense and we do not have enough funds for the toilets and the tree surgery. As there is no immediate need (no danger) of tree surgery, we will not go ahead with this. The committee unanimously voted against it.
- Allotment history and signs. We have confirmation that we are the oldest allotment site in London! We will get this in the paper and inform RHS through Christina and her husband. Simon suggested we have blue plaques to promote this fact on site and point out what is still left from this time (the hedgerow etc).
- Simon has some prices for the plastic covering/new signs. This work out about £5 for history signs instead of laminating.
- AOB - Bonfires. Northfield end had a non- contained bonfire of which the smoke went into the street and into Zero Zero hairsalon. It was a windy day. If there is a complaint about a fire then the fire has to be put out. Committee members can be the complainant and should feel confident to instruct plot holder for the fire to be put out. Going forward when a complaint is made, a letter should be sent to the plot holder reminding them of best practice. Hilary will send best practice so far to Christina, Christina to draft the letter.

NEXT MEETING **TUESDAY 12TH APRIL at Kim's house - 7.30 PM**

