

EALING DEAN ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING. 6TH SEPT 19.30

PRESENT: Crispin Harris, Christina Fox, Paul McConnell, Christine Charles and Jon Wilkins

SECTION A

Chair's report – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017

Plots rented out: Plot 240A	Plots available: 200A 226B
Plots being left un-rented due to the development: 147, 152B, 159, 217A, 224, 227, 231,	
Waiting list >>> 81 people Person at the top of the list joined in January 2015	

Christine, Jon and I attended the Pathways quarterly meeting on the 19th July. We all agreed with Haslemere's committee that bonfires can resume between 1st November until 31st March. I have posted this on the Facebook group but intend to do a newsletter to all ploholders to make sure everyone knows.

Paul and I met with Pathways interim Chief Exec Charlotte Graves. We gave her a tour of the allotments and we explained the history of the site and how and why EDAS came into being. She told us that she will not be applying for the full time post. But she has been taken on to keep the momentum going

with their plans for the development. So, we should expect Pathways to put their plans into the council in Autumn and expect a new Chief Exec sometime in the future.

Cllr Binda Rai contacted me about a month ago about sorting out the purchase of a composting toilet from ward forum monies. She apologised for it taking so long (funds were agreed in February) and would look into it. It seems one office at the council needs to speak to another and the message isn't getting through. Hopefully she can bang some heads together.

On 5th September I attended the Ealing Allotment Partnership (EAP) committee meeting. I asked again about our composting toilet. The council has ordered and will be distributing fourteen composting toilets to its allotment sites. They are ordering them from Dunster House where we also sourced our composting toilet. So, Dunster House is an approved supplier to the council, they have taken orders from the council. Granted our model is different. I asked Chris Welsh, who was at the meeting tonight, what the situation was with Northfields composting toilet. He did not know and couldn't give me a date for any action. We would have loved to have had the toilet for our summer open day in July. If Chris Welsh cannot give us a timescale - it probably means it still has not been ordered. Because once it is ordered there is a 5/6 week lead time and he could then have indicated some sort of delivery time. I emailed my concern to the Councillors and Binda Rai called me within a few minutes. She is going to look into it again and hopefully we might just have the toilet for Halloween....or an early Christmas Present!

I attended the Ealing & Hanwell (Boston Road) Allotment Association committee meeting. They have asked us to put information about their annual show on the gates. I'll also email everyone about the show too.

A non cultivation letter was sent to 223B and a follow up letter two weeks later. A final inspection is due on Thursday 14 September 2017. The plot holder was also sent a letter about bonfires after one was found on his plot still smouldering and unattended.

We manned the market stall on Northfields Avenue and at the Brentford Festival. Both were a great success and we talked to lots of local people and got more signatures on the paper petition. The Brentford Festival also gave us an opportunity to hand out flyers for the Halloween pumpkin trail.

I was interviewed by Guardian journalist Peter Watts and BBC London News

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2017/aug/02/social-housing-green-space-ealing-dean-northfield-allotments>

Members of the Facebook group organised a collection of spare veg for the charity foodcycle. Fran made contact with the local soup kitchen but they said they needed to plan meals in advance and so declined our offer. I also contacted the local Sheikh centre but did not get a reply back. It would be good if we could find a local charity that is willing and able to collect as ploholders were very keen to donate.

On 5th September attended meeting organised by Pathways with local residents and councillor about anti-social behaviour in the Radbourne Walk. Chalotte Graves Pathways' interim Chief Exec wants to meet with ploholder Tana, Kevin the tree surgeon and myself to discuss removal of some of the trees to open up the hiding spaces for drug taking.

ACTION POINTS

- Needle licence for at the Chemists. Note (I asked the chemist in Northfields because I had needles left on my plot and I had to take them to the Doctor's Surgery)
- Grant for Halloween?

MAINTENANCE REPORT

August volunteer day: We concentrated on the Radbourne Walk which was looking a little neglected as we had missed our July volunteer day – which fell on the open day. Lots of clearance done and the three compost bays on the maintenance plot are now full to bursting. So, we should consider putting up two more bays. This would allow us to turn the materials in the other bays and so speed up the composting process. Plus, more bays give us more space for more greenery...and we might actually have some compost ready to use.

September volunteer day: This was a great success we allocated three team leaders for three maintenance tasks. Simon supervised the demolition of a dangerous shed on the maintenance plot. This has now been replaced with the old metal shed salvaged a couple of years ago from plot 241. Tana supervised clearance of brambles and weeds along the fence on Occupation road and the model cottages. We also put some rubbish from the stairwells of the model cottages in our skip as a gesture of goodwill. I supervised the clearance of rubbish left by ploholders on plot 224 (there were a lot of plastic window frames that were an eyesore from the road) and Plot 159 which has four sheds full of items left behind.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report - 15th August 2017

Bank balances as at 31/07

Site management account: £ 4,592.88

Campaign/Fundraising account: £ 7,899.28

Income & expenditure in July

1/ Fundraising account:

£ 3,619.42 in (Open day takings, Northfields market donations),

£ 972.93 out (Open day expenses, printing (W F-S))

2/ Site management account:

£ 3,254.00 in (Site Management fees),

£ 1351.25 out (skips, labour expenses, planned projects, equipment investment [tables])

Expected for August

1/ Remainder of expenses (<£200)

Treasurer's report - 4th September 2017

Bank balances as at 31/08

Site management account: £ 4,592.88

Campaign/Fundraising account: £ 7,944.98

Income & expenditure in August

1/ Fundraising account:

£ 0 out (Open day expenses)

£ 45.70 in (Donations via Stripe)

2/ Site management account:

£ 0 out

£ 0 in

Expected for September

1/ Hedge trimmer

2/ Any income from Northfields market stall donations and the Brentford festival - mug sales and donations

Activities

1/ Change of address

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Nothing extra to Christina

WEBSITE

Addition of an Open day page

SECTION B POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

HALLOWEEN

NOTES FROM LAST MINUTES

- **Stocktaking to see what we need**
- **Christina needs a budget for decorations etc**
- **Carving pumpkins on site**
- **Selling a tunnel of pumpkins.**
- **We need more stewards**
- **Christina wants a skeleton.**

ADDED NOTES ACTION POINTS

- **Plot holders decorating plots**
- **Risk assessment of the route**
- **Checking Insurance**

BONFIRES: November to February. Try it and see what happens

GARDENING CLUB

- **Nina to design it**

FOOD CYCLE: started well but wasn't as well organised the next time.

HOME SCHOOLING: Christina to meet the parents

WOODCHIPS: Some may arrive with logs in

RADBOURNE WALK TREES

The eventual plan is to remove all the sycamores.

ACTION POINT TO DEVISE AN ORDER OF EVENTS TO DEAL WITH THE SYCAMORES.

BONFIRE NIGHT; An event for the plotholders?

NEXT MEETING 11TH OCTOBER.