

Minutes for RGS Committee Meeting

9am Sunday 3 February 2019

1 Present: Jackie Savage (Chair), Elizabeth Smart, Mariangela Renshaw, Janis Humberstone, Elaine Barnwell, Vivien Fowler, Ali Linton, Gill Tamsett, Catherine Maunsell-Bower, Patrick Crawford, Carol Martinez (Minutes) Mike Cooper, Brenna Latimore and Greg Wilcox
Apologies: Helen Finch and Shirley Gillbe

2. Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 6th January 2019, agreed ex committee, signed. (Already on website).

3. Matters arising (not agenda items)

i Lease / Charity update (PC)

PC reported that he sent a letter to Peter Tiernan at the council and Ian Mitchell of Enable, setting out the changes we would like such as a 35-year lease, not being bound to aspirational capital works, some clarity over liability and the definition of access rights.

A reply was received from PT who has said that he does not mind some of the things such as the 35-year lease and the liability, but other issues will need to be discussed again. It was suggested that PC meets separately with Enable to discuss the capital works. (Action: PC)

ii Store roof replacement project (PC)

PC has found additional roofers to send in quotes. One has been received and the other promised soon. The cladding supplier, however, has gone bust but a new one has been found. PC had a meeting with Facilities Management at the council who have no objections and said that no formal approval is needed. PC has asked for this to be confirmed in writing. (Action: PC)

iii Wood chip and manure deliveries (VF)

There will now be a regular delivery of manure from Robin Hood stables.

VF has found someone working in Putney at the moment who will deliver woodchip this time, but he cannot do it regularly. It was suggested that VF ask him to contact her whenever he has a job in the area.

She will keep looking for someone who might be able to deliver regularly. (Action VF)

iv Invoice plans (JS in HF's absence)

An email has been sent by EB warning that plot holders must give a month's notice and that we will not be accepting cash unless there is an individual problem. The exception is RGS Associate members with no plot affiliation will be able to pay cash (£2.50) at the store and get their RGS card immediately. Plot holders will be able to pick up their card from the store once they have paid. JH will make suitable arrangements for this process. The invoices will be sent out week beginning 18th February

4. Chair's Report

Outgoing plot holders: We now have a checklist for outgoing plot holders for the site secretaries to refer to. This is to ensure consistency of practice across both sites and to document agreed, efficient procedures.

Website: HF has arranged to meet Jean Crawford on her return to review the website. Jean is keen that information is easily accessible and done in an up to date way.

Charity: HF met with CM-B to discuss progress towards Charity status. C M-B is ploughing through the information that JS has passed on. It was agreed that no progress can be made until the lease is agreed with the Council.

5. Treasurer's report (JH) - The store is currently taking around £100 per week.

The banking has changed in that there are now 3 committee members who can access the account and make changes whilst 3 others have view only access.

6. Allotment Secretaries' reports

Site 2 (MR)

Permission to plant a dwarf-stock apple tree granted to plot holder of plot 31B (2 rods)

Permission to erect a polytunnel granted to plot holder of plot 37C (3 rods)

Lettings: No lettings.

Site 3 Site Secretary Report – Outer Area (VF)

Lettings:

71A - let to Michael Prew

52A – Valente Panattoni has given it up, being considered by possible tenant, is being re-measured.

75B – has been given up and a new tenant is being sought who wants small plot - 1.5 rods

Problem Plots

Most people who received warning letters/emails after last inspection have responded well

Problems with neighbours

Apple tree overhanging Plot 50A has been cut back by Artan

Other issues

Burst pipe on tank next to Plot 83 needs mending.

Site 3 (plots 101 to 127 inner area) (AL)

Lettings:

Plot 115C – The plot has been offered

Plot 101A –Plot holder went onto the Secondary waiting list and his plot has been let as from 10th February.

7. Trading Secretary's report (GT)

We had 2 deliveries in January so the Store is fully stocked. Delivery of the wool seed compost is due early next week. This has increased in price from last year so we will be selling it loose as well as in bags. Thankfully we have a discount through our arrangement with Dobies.

Unfortunately the 20 bags of Clover multipurpose compost which were delivered had been poorly sealed and broke open when being lifted off the pallet. These have been taped up and will be sold for £2.

8. Bulletin Editor's report. (CM) March Bulletin Deadline: Monday 25th February.

9. Show Secretary Report – plans for the 'new variety summer show'

CM reported that a meeting has been held with the sub-committee and lots of plans have been discussed and issues sorted. Will confirm if will be Sunday 9th or 16th June as soon as can.

10. Site Manager's report (SG) nothing to report

11. Diary dates:

Summer Show – New Variety – either Sunday 9th or 16th June – to be confirmed.

Autumn Show. Saturday 21st September, Church Hall.

AGM – Thursday 14th November, Cricket Club

Trips. It was suggested that a visit to Wisley on Friday 22nd March to coincide with their plant sale would be offered to all members. Action: BL to send paragraph to EB to be emailed out and CM will put reminder in next bulletin.

BL to explore holding another Gardener's Question Time with a new panel.

BL to ask Frog Life if they will make a return visit one Sunday after store closes.

AOB.

EB has been looking at funding opportunities and advised that we probably qualify for one from BIFFA. With other organisations we do not have to be a charity but we must have a lease in place of at least 10 years before we will be considered so it is imperative that the lease is sorted as soon as possible.

The committee discussed what is in the Behaviour Policy and it has been confirmed (post meeting) that written abuse is not covered.

It has been agreed that there will be a full discussion at the next meeting re wording in Behaviour Policy and how this type of behaviour will be managed if it happens again in the future.

Date of the next meeting **Sunday 3 March 2019** 9am at the store