

EALING DEAN ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING. TUESDAY 13TH OCT 19.30

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

APOLOGIES: Hilary Wright.

SECTION A

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- The minutes were accepted.
- Possible date for next year's Open Day. Jon has done some excellent research combining local events with other significant dates. We are looking at Saturday 25th June as nothing is clashing. "It should be early late enough for produce to be coming to fruition and early enough for it not to be "nicked""
- Annual General Meeting. Materials/Information to go to plotholders about a month before. Because Easter is very early next year we are looking at a Sunday (subject to availability) in mid April.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Plots rented out: 236B 156A 163A	Plots available: 158B 170A available next month or two 174 waiting for son to visit 241 becomes available in Oct
Waiting list >> 71 people	

Added Northfield Allotments as a location to Google Maps.

Switched off water and drained system and took water meter reading -
with help from Simon and Dominic.

Attended Ealing Allotment Partnership committee meeting. This mainly covered the departure of Steven Cole the council's allotment manager and how council plots will be managed in the future.

Last year Christine and I went to the launch of GreenRedeem an initiative to reward recycling efforts in Ealing. We were one of the groups that people could donate their earned rewards to. I recently visited the site to find that we had reached our target.



Initially GreenRedeem said to contact the council – but in the end the Cheque arrived from them. So, we now have a £1,000 donation for the Radbourne Walk.

Met with two tree surgeons and received quote for pollarding four of the willow trees and removal of one that is dangerously balanced on a hawthorn tree. If the hawthorn buckles and gives up under the weight the whole tree will come down on the fence and Northfield Avenue pavement.

Sent out emails to arrange quarterly meeting with Pathways which did not go ahead in September because Alison Jones from Pathways was on holiday. Hopefully we can get this sorted as soon as possible. Have received no replies so far.

Received draft plan and schedule from plot 223B. Emailed to committee – who feel there was insufficient information. Letter sent to plotholder asking for final version – included in the letter was sample schedule and plan, vegetable planner and spare graph paper. Deadline for final plan is Friday 9th October in time for this committee meeting. Undated plan received. Plotholder emailed to say he did not receive my termination letter. According to my records the non-cultivation letter and termination

letter were both printed and posted – but also emailed (and cc'd to committee).

Plot holder is working on the plot so we will e-mail them with future decisions.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Bank Account has £3738 in it.

There are some expenses to be re-imbursed and the Radbourne money from Green Redeem to be paid in.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Christine has sent out the congratulations letters to plot holders who have done well but didn't win an award.

MAINTENANCE REPORT AND UP-DATES

- October the grass was "aerated" and sand/seed put down
- The spikey attachment was slower than imagined so Simon will start it in advance. He will be more random as the "holes" were successful but a bit Straight lines.
- Second half in November and a Radbourne clear up in December.
- Simon is suggesting "Portaloos" for the Open day (NB Further research found they are approx. £30 for a day hire.

JON'S REPORT

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.

SECTION B

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

NON-CULTIVATION LETTERS

Further to the discussion from last months meeting as below

"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"**

This is all fine and dandy when the communication is working and successful with the plot-holder. People with a concern about their managing the demands of the plot often realise that this is the best process for them and leave with good grace.

However, if there is a problem with the communication or the process the committee does not want to get embroiled in a dispute that becomes

- Personal
- Unpleasant
- Against the principles of being a good neighbour and helpful plot-holder.

The committee are the representatives of the plot-holders so often are having to mediate/facilitate the process to help all plot-holders enjoy their time on the allotments and to be able "help where help is needed" as well as suggest ways of moving forward to keep the allotments as a safe environment for all.

After much discussion it was decided that if we have attempted as many ways to communicate with plot-holders as is available to us the ball is in their court and the process is up to them to conform and not us to continuously chase and convince them to maintain their plot.

If they have had a non-cultivation letter and make some effort so that we do not go to termination, we do not go back to "how about doing something on the plot" if things go wrong again we go straight to non-cultivation.

SKIPS

From last minutes

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

We are going to try the skip being supervised and removed on the same day. Next skip date in November.

SHEDS (Continuing)

- Clarification of size on web-site
- No permanent construction
- Condition of the "Heath Robinson" conglomerations.
- Safety of them
- An on-going process.
- Checking the effect of shade on neighbouring plots.

TREES

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

- We have had some quotes done by tree surgeons and are looking at another one
- Which willows are a danger to plot holders/ the public.
- We need a meeting with Pathways to ascertain for which elements they are going to pay.

MAIL CHIMP

- Christina has been testing and experimenting with Mail Chimp
- Easier for pictures
- We know who has read the e-mail
- Good for links

MISSING PRODUCE

We have noted that produce has been going missing

- Has some been taken "by mistake" by the charity?
- Did anyone see anything?
- If we are uncertain about people on our neighbouring plots we should ask them.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER (Kim's?)