

Gertie Gales Allotment Committee Meeting

14th August 2017

November

- **Present:**

Judith Arnold - secretary, John Cottrell - Chairperson, Les Curwood - lettings officer, Bob Sheppard - Treasurer, Andrew Arnold - Vice Chair, Ian Cameron - media officer, Chris Sanders, Dave Rowles, Liz Rowles, Ann Cameron, Mick Morrison, Evelyn Grounsell

- **Apologies:**

Peter Burden, Deb Herbert, Stuart Armstrong, June Gregory Jenny Murray

- **Signing of the minutes** – John Cottrell

- **Matters Arising**

- **Victorian Christmas Market Stall** – Chris gave out a list of items we are hoping to have on the stall. Lots of variety. Bill Dixon also bringing his cards, calendars etc and allotment receives a percentage of each item sold. Discussion of items needed to set stall up - ***need waterproof lights to use with generator - more help needed in evening to set up at 4 ish - help to serve in evening.***

Bob volunteered a couple of inspection lights. Don't have stands or sign from last year. Helpers in costume would be much appreciated. Please respond to Chris Sanders or myself if you can offer help or equipment in any form. Or if you have items for the stall.

- **Posters and banners discussion** - Ann showed the poster that she had created. Ian explained the costings for the flier and the poster. Ann and Ian to order both, numbers on the basis of economics. Discussion on how this can be translated into a banner – Ann offered to create a banner from balloon silk with the name in letters on a background for the Christmas market. Thanks to Ann and Ian for their work on this.

- **Financial report from Bob.** Overall surplus for year at present at around £300. Hopefully should have a surplus of around £400 at end of financial year when profit from Christmas stall added to this. Saved £935 on grass cutting, offset by £250 on repairs and purchase of equipment. Looking ahead, there appears to be a reasonable potential for maintaining a surplus in years ahead so no need for rent increases at present. Predictions include some money for grass cutting next year as Stuart will not be around to do so much next year.

- **Letting report from Les.** 7 enquiries since August, and 8 new lettings. Site inspection at start of November with letters sent out to 14 tenants whose plots showed little evidence of being worked. 2 have given up plots, no reply from 5, remainder want to keep their plots. Statistics are worse than at the August inspection. 4 people on waiting list at present whom Les is contacting. 2 half plots, 1 full plot available plus the 5 possible who haven't replied.

- **Site maintenance report.** A) In Stuart's absence, John commended Stuarts work on the site. Shed and water tank tasks have both been completed. Shed tidied with some bins labelled. Two empty white bins – please mark with names.

B) Suggestion to create plot 11B – now that bottom area is cleared, this is a possibility.

C) Plan to create compost bins for grass only, one at either end and one on each side - to be done in near future.

D) Not expecting to service mowers at start of season but may well have to in the middle of season. Suggestion to get Zoltan to cut grass a few times in the year next year.

E) Discussion on the necessity of flailing the perimeter and the mess it will create – John to discuss further with Stuart. However this is already booked in for Friday November 24th.

F) Graffiti on bench - by a chemist not a linguist! Needs to be cleaned off.

G) Compost toilet in abeyance until next financial year.

H) Whips agreed to as well – by council. Judith stated her opposition to this idea s this will create extra

work. Idea that the whips would also create a barrier to stop spread of nettles and an environment that would maintain itself. Evelyn and John to meet up and apply. Will be delivered in March.

I) Water board want protection over the pipes and a non-return valve on water supply - John to investigate with council as this should have been done when it was set up originally. They are liable. Discuss with Roger.

- **Dates of next meetings** – AGM on 13th March at Folk Hall or North Weston Hall. Still need replacement for Bob as Treasurer.

- **AOB** – John not standing as Chair after AGM, Judith not standing as Secretary and Andrew resigning from Committee due to pressures of work. Desperate need to recruit new members to serve on the committee, especially in roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.