

Minutes of the Gertie Gales Committee Meeting

10th July 2018

Present

Andrew Arnold (Chairman), Zoltan Kekesi (Secretary), Ana Mazina-Scott (Vice Chair), Ian Cameron (Media Officer), Les Curwood (Lettings Officer), Judit Arnold (plot holder – Portishead in Bloom)

Apologies

Stuart Armstrong (Treasurer), Alan Harrison (Site Manager), Anne Cameron (Media Officer), Roger Howard, Bob Sheppard

Chairman welcomes attendees and opens the meeting.

1. Administration

Secretary informs that updated agenda was sent out in emails due to printing issues.

2. Matters arising

2.1 Portishead in Bloom

Actions: Judith Arnold and Ana Mazina-Scott (confirmed in email after the meeting) will meet the judges on site

- to send out emails to tenants about plot cleaning (Zoltan)

- to organize cutting weeds, car park and shed area (tbc)

- to place out table for excess crop and seed swap (tbc)

- to find out more about judging criteria for us to meet requirements better in the future (Judith)

Context: Judith Arnold gives a general overview of the Portishead in Bloom competition. The competition focuses on the community spirit/activity, water reserve and green waste composting. And it is also important to show how we work together as a community in various ways.

None of these are managed too successfully as only a few people harvest water, composting activity needs more encouragement. That brings up the communal compost facility issue again.

As the grass cutting around the site area has been managed quite well during the last couple of months for this time there is no need for an additional mowing and we expect all plot holders to cut the grass around their plots and do a general clean and tidying up. The committee will organize the cutting of the weeds down around the allotment area, the car park and the shed.

Table for crops and seeds share to be placed out again next to the shed. The excess crops also could be presented as an honesty box.

Also agreed we need actions to engage more of the plot holders on improving the community spirit to act as a real community.

For a better preparation for the future competitions we need to find out more about what and how the judges measure on the allotments.
Judging takes place Tuesday 24 July, attendees needed.

2.2 Victorian evening

Decision: if we find someone who takes on the organizer role we may apply for a stall
Action: to find out if there are stalls available (Zoltan)
to send out email to plot holders finding a replacement for Chris (Zoltan)
more actions only after if above solved
Context: Chris Sanders informed the committee that she cannot organize the Victorian Evening this year. However offering help with her experience and ideas. Also provided contacts to organize it should we want to. The committee wishes to continue as this event is a good chance to get more people know about our plot and also may bring in extra funds to develop site. Though we need dedicated people who could organize and contribute. It is more likely we have helpers than a coordinator, without one it is unlikely it will be a success. If we have a coordinator the committee will support the event.

2.3 Evictions on unkempt plots

Decision: committee still would like to make clear actions to support those who do care a plot and those who are on the waiting list
Action: polite, straightforward actions to remind plot holders to meet the contractual obligations
for those who not cultivate, do it before 1st of Sep or loose it
Context: Les gave the committee an update about his latest site inspection (5 July). Situation slightly improved. 72 plots cultivated, 54 partly cultivated and 9 (5 half and 4 full ones) not managed. For email reminders 1 gave up (it is by now let out), 3 did not reply, 7 want to keep the plot.
Currently 4 people on waiting list.
We still want to improve the situation and it would be good to know how other allotments deal with similar issues.
We shall give a month to those not cultivating to start or they should give up. This would give some time for new starters to achieve something even this year.

2.4 GDPR update

Decision: talk about it on next meeting
Action: continue meeting the regulation and monitor if any issues come up
Context: in absence of Stuart there is no sense discussing it in detail. Stuart set up rules by deadline that meets the regulations.
So far we did not have any issues. Continue sending out emails with bcc.

2.5 Cash report

Decision: talk about it more on next meeting
Action: no actions required presently
Context: Stuart sent the figures in email. All rents paid. No extra expenditures occurred other than an expectation of a higher water bill because of the increased water

usage due to the dry weather. By owners cutting the grass more frequently this year there is some savings on the grass cutting expense.

3. ANO

Members raised:

Facebook group (Robin Wilcox)

Robin Wilcox kindly offered to create a Facebook group to create a forum for plot holders to discuss matters and experience

Committee agrees it is a good idea however it needs some rules and directions set up to meet legislation, especially GDPR. The group also needs an engaged moderator and needs to be a closed. Lots of ideas about what could be contents (share ideas, offer extra plants, swap seeds etc.).

(Andrew to discuss with Robin)

wasp nest under ground plot 3J

No extreme danger as yet, nest is located/isolated. To contact council to find out more about whose liable for pest removal in a case like that (Zoltan to contact Council)

excess crops

Ana Mazina-Scott raised the issue seeing many crops going wasted on many plots. Suggesting to share the excess or create an honesty box.

Table to share is also an option. The heat and the direct sun is against it, may need to place it in a shaded location or create a protected box.

pallets for compost bins

Formerly collected pallets are now gone. If we need communal compost bins to build we need new ones. free pallets are available at many locations. Need to

organize transport. Needs a group of people to set up. We soon get to the time when these are really needed to place the green waste into and not transport them to the tip. Needs composting rules to set up and introduced in order to avoid people placing unwanted waste into them.

(Zoltan to send out emails for helpers)

lawnmowers

Free lawnmowers were offered to the community. At the moment there is no need for an extra mower in the shed. The offered ones will be kept for the

community for free. Rules for using, cleaning and checking the mowers seems to be a need. A guide will be set up and pinned out in the shed (Zoltan to work out).

Next meeting(s)

Date of next meeting 12 September, is expected to be a closed committee meeting to discuss more on GDPR and the effect on the allotment society documents

(Bob Sheppard and Roger Howard is to be invited).

There is an open meeting in plan in the autumn, the date is not yet agreed. Members to be informed well in advance.

24 hour reactions (did not tell or raised issue after the meeting in word or in email):

Ian Cameron emailed that Anne Cameron cannot take on as a coordinator for the Victorian Evening.

Ana Mazina-Scott emailed she is able to organize to attend on the Portishead in Bloom judging.

Additional note: the wasp situation is discussed with the council, and there will be actions taken place expectedly 18 July, Friday.

Appendix 1 – Agenda to actual meeting

Gertie Gale Committee Meeting
10th July 2018
The Albion – 7.45pm
Agenda

1. Administration

2. Matters arising:

- Portishead in Bloom
- Victorian evening
- Evictions on unkempt plots
- GDPR update
- Cash report

3. AOB