

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 8 November at 7.30pm, venue: Gledhow Sports and Social Club

Present: Paul, Margaret L, Margaret P, Primrose, John, Bob, Brian

1. Welcome

Paul welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies: none received

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September were approved as a correct record. John wondered whether the minutes should be made available to members. Paul said that he had considered doing this but was concerned about publishing names. It was agreed that the minutes should be published with personal data redacted. Brian was asked to organise this.

4. Matters arising

Item 5: Plot inspection follow-up. Regarding the booklets produced by the Federation it had been decided by the Federation that the booklets would be made available to all members free of charge.

5. Plots inspection follow-up

Paul reported that he had sent a termination letter to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had decided not to renew. [REDACTED] has also decided to give up thus allowing Primrose to let these plots as a half plot. Colin Jaggs had been enquiring as to what was happening to the plot adjacent to his. Primrose reported that someone had agreed to take it on. She noted that 3NA was still unlet.

6. Rent letters

Bob reported that progress was being made. On 31 October 30 members still had not paid. Bob had tried contacting them all but seven had still not paid up. Four had promised to pay – three had not responded. They are [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Bob expressed concern that Lynne Rogers had given 10 November as the deadline for submitting returns which is a month earlier than usual. Bob will check the date with her.

7. Update on plots to let and plots available

Bob reported that his list showed that there were ten plots to let.

Regarding the trial period Bob thought that our returns should show that the plot was let even if the trial period has not been completed.

Paul had a question concerning communication between Primrose and Bob. Bob indicated that Primrose does inform him when a plot is let.

8. Treasurer's report

John reported that the cash balance is currently high because of the rents received. Some £11300 is in the bank. There had been a small number of transactions just a few shop purchases.

There needs to be a stocktake soon. Paul had contacted Ian but he has not got back to him.

Bob commented how much easier it was to check payments when he can view the online bank statements. John concurred and added that the ability to download Excel spreadsheets make bookkeeping much easier. 50% of members had paid their rents using BACS.

9. Correspondence

Paul had received a reply from [REDACTED] expressing their thanks for what the Thursday Volunteer Group had done with their plot.

10. Thursday Volunteer Group

Margaret L reported that the Group had been working on plots as required.

Paul mentioned [REDACTED] who had a large amount of wood on their plot which they wanted to dispose of but couldn't get into the skip. The TVG ended up helping them out.

At the moment the group are busy with clearing leaves and intend to start hedge trimming soon. Paul has still to contact someone about hiring a shredder.

Patrick asked if a blower would be useful to the group. Paul felt that it would be useful if the leaves were dry.

Paul reported that the strimmer and brushwood cutter had been sent for repair.

11. Pedestrian gate quote

A quote had been received from Colway Security for a gate with a mortice lock of £450 fitted. Paul emphasised that a key would still be needed. Primrose said that this development would greatly help those who were partially sighted.

Paul had also got a quote of £80 for a 'hatch' for the main gate. The Committee agreed that the work should proceed on the basis of both quotes.

Margaret P reported that the other entrance gate was dropping. Paul said that he would look at it.

12. LDAGF

Paul reported that the next meeting was on 30 November and that all RAGA members were welcome to attend. The idea was for all sites to have a rep who attended Federation meetings. The training day had to be postponed when some of the trainers could not attend.

13. Non-members on the site

There had been no reports of non-members visiting the site.

14. Time and date of next meeting

Tuesday 10 January 2017, 7.30pm, at Gledhow Sports and Social Club

15. Any Other Business

Paul proposed that since officers will retire after their period of office that it would be useful if an email address was set up for each role which could be transferred to the new incumbent. Brian suggested that gmail was probably a better system than Hotmail. Brian was asked to set up email addresses for RAGA officers.

Paul reported that at the AGM a new set of rules and the revised constitution were agreed. However on the website there was still the 2011 version. It was agreed that Brian circulate the documents to all committee members, replace the version on the website and place a printed copy in the hut. The document as signed by Paul and Brian would be retained by Brian.

Paul referred to the vinyl flooring in the hut which is suffering. He proposed that after the stocktake he would buy replacement vinyl and let members know by email.

Brian enquired about the status of manure deliveries. Several new members had asked him about when deliveries might be resumed. Paul had talked to Chris's old boss (Edward). Edward wanted to come down and look at the storage facility before agreeing to resume supplies. Paul will contact him again to try and get something sorted.

Margaret P said that she had decided not to stand as a Committee member at the AGM. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were very keen and might be persuaded to join the Committee.

Margaret L raised the prospect of RAGA participating in the REAP Open Gardens event on 25 June 2017. We had participated in the past. John thought it would be a good way of recruiting new people onto the waiting list since many thought the list was much longer than it actually was. The Committee agreed that we should participate.

Margaret L asked whether there should be a Christmas get-together. Last year's event had to be cancelled so she proposed a more modest event aimed at Committee members, hut volunteers and the Thursday volunteers. Margaret and Paul were happy to host an afternoon tea. The 4 December from 3pm was agreed as the date and time. Food contributions would be welcome. There would be quizzes.