

RAGA Minutes 18 September 2017

Gledhow Sports and Social Club

Present: Paul, Margaret, Brian, Primrose, Steve, Peter, Cath, Bob and Pat

1. **Welcome:** From Paul
2. **Apologies:** John
3. **Minutes of the last meeting held** on Mon 3 July 2017 were approved as a correct record.
4. **Matters arising not on this agenda:**
 - a. Strimmer battery problematic – Complaints about the only one remaining. Peter offered a battery for the other strimmer.
 - b. Plot inspection done. Bernardo wants to buy the matting on his plot. £1.10 per metre Peter to check and then bill him.
 - c. Ian to order more matting
 - d. ML – Thought it was a bad idea to loan the shredder out, at least until we have the measure of it.
 - e. Training session this Thursday for volunteers
 - f. John S – sourced some barrels for the water points , these will be ordered ready for the spring when the water is turned back on
 - g. Meter reading and water turned off this Thursday
5. **Plot Inspection:**
 - a. Finished by 11.30 Now Peter’s good colour coded system has speeded up the process.
 - b. Peter sent emails to all those with notes following the plot inspection. X not included. Peter to write confirming termination. Y and Z on xx if they give up it’s to be offered to RS. Rent letters must not go out to suspect plot holders.
6. **Rents:**
 - a. Bob away from 22 October so needs a substitute to take over the whole process this year.
 - b. Brian volunteered to take over this year. Sixty people paid by bank transfer last year which is our preferred method.
 - c. All letters in the post before the end of September. There was a question about the trial period for new ploholders. Brian, Peter and Bob to have a short meeting to clarify the situation.
7. **Update on plots let and available:**
 - a. One vacated plot has been allocated to a Bulgarian family. Three starter beds vacant, one starter bed let and two are being let. Demo bed will be cleared. About 10 on the waiting list.
8. **Treasurer’s Report** – not submitted
9. **Secretary’s Report**
 - a. Email about filming- Angela Goyal local GP “Made in Leeds” internet channel, filming on Tuesday 19 September, we asked for a mention on the TV programme.
 - b. Email from the Federation re email addresses for a survey. Brian and others not happy about the data protection issues but the survey could be forwarded to members by Brian and they can opt to complete it and email back their reply.

- c. Paul said that the survey was part of an effort to reinvigorate the Federation. There will be a wider discussion at the Learning Day in February prior to the AGM in March. The Federation is the only collective voice for allotment holders. Self-managed isn't really true as we still have to give details of individual plots let unlike Allwoodly who only pay ground rent. However any changes may affect the leases of individual sites.

10. Planning:

- a. Luke Rayner said the Substation could take 5 years. It doesn't need planning permission. If our site is a Statutory Allotment then permission has to be sought from the Secretary of State. It all depends how it was designated originally. We are waiting for an answer from the Council. How much say do we have? It might be too soon to get too exercised about this if it may take 5 years.
- b. Northern Powergrid has agreed to dig the trench for the electricity supply.
- c. Planning Application. It has not been refused outright and is still with planners. Paul is awaiting a reply from Christian.
- d. Potternewton Bowling Club whose hut was burnt down had a replacement metal building paid for by the Council.

11. Summer BBQ :

- a. It went very well. It was a nice day and there was a reasonable turn out.
- b. Will Jennings health report, he is now in the LGI. A card was sent from us all.

12. Autumn Newsletter:

- a. To go out with the rent letters
- b. Pat to do the potato and onion order again this year. Order forms to go in the hut and be an attachment to the newsletter.
- c. Copy to Brian by the end of the week. Cath to forward some photos. Pat will submit something about the potato orders
- d. Seed catalogues available from Sunday 2 October
- e. Skip for the end of October, Thursday to Thursday. Steve will be the contact.
- f. Question about manure deliveries. The two previous deliveries cost £70 (£35 each) but we only recovered about £50 and we should have at least covered our costs. It was decided to give it one more try after an item in the newsletter -Pay up or there won't be any more.

13. Thursday Volunteer Group update: Making good progress on hedge cutting. We now have a shredder. Karin and Sharon made a lot of headway clearing to the side of the bug hotel. We are covering and chipping it and intend to plant through. We have cut down most of the plants in the circular bed, mainly to stop seeds germinating, we are considering putting wood chippings on to suppress the weeds.

14. Date for Autumn Skip: Brian to advise hopefully 26 October.

15. Non-members on site / security issues: None

16. Next Management Committee meeting: Monday 6 November GSSC 7.30pm

17. Any urgent other business

- a. Membership of the GSSC for the three officers; Chair, Secretary and Treasurer renewed by Paul

- b. Margaret asked about getting properly produced weather proof signs for the allotment. A decision can be made once the likely cost is known.
- c. Cath asked about the possibility of people who can't get to the shop on a Sunday, emailing requests for items from the shop.
- d. Paul has already had a discussion with Barbara about Saturday opening to accommodate those who can't get to the shop on a Sunday.
- e. Shredder, Margaret thought it was not a good idea to loan out the shredder because of the safety implications and this was agreed
- f. Reminder about the Federation Social at Scarcroft Village Hall on Friday 22 September

18. The meeting closed at 9.15pm