

RAGA Minutes 5 March 2018

Gledhow Sports and Social Club

Present: Peter, Patrick, Steve, Bob, John, Cath, Paul and Margaret plus Barbara Greenwood

1. Welcome: From Paul

2. Apologies: Brian and Primrose

3. Allotment Shop: Barbara gave her input as volunteer co-ordinator, she reported that the same few faces bought from the sales hut with very few new plot holders appearing.

We must highlight this in the next newsletter. It was decided that the small notice board near the second gate will be moved so that it can be seen by passers-by, in it we will display shop opening times, a stock list with prices and appeal for more Garden Members. Possibly also ask if a mention could be made of the shop in the REAP Newsletter with perhaps some fliers at the Farmer's Market.

Stock in the shop will be increased, Ian will order some of the stock that was popular in the past. It was agreed that another container will be hired to store the bulk purchases, the main container will be topped up each Thursday with whatever is running low. Netting was mentioned. After some discussion it was decided that it was not possible to deliver pre-purchased goods to individual plots for many reasons, we will be sticking to the tried and tested opening times during the growing season. Paul reminded us that the Tuesday evening hut opening experiment had been a failure, even the person who had proposed it didn't come to buy anything!

John pointed out that it was our only income generator and that we had been spending more than we had been getting in. However due to the limited stock that we can hold it was decided to keep it fairly low key, try to hold on to the goodwill we have and do a big, well-advertised launch when we get new facilities.

Paul will check if the container at GSSC is still on offer, check the condition of the roof and how much it would cost for it to be moved when we get planning permission for the containers? In the meantime, he will order a new hired container, he will also ask if we could purchase the existing units if we get to that stage in the Planning Application.

Barbara left the meeting at this point.

5. Matters arising: Substation. Paul had an email from Luke Rayner with details of the width of the trench. (6 inches of 15 cm) The time scale is now 8 to 12 months and our agreement is sought so that the legal procedure can be put into place. Paul is to ask about the specific location with measurements so that we don't do any un-necessary work on that area of land.

6. Plot Letting: Peter reported that there are 3 vacant plots and 7 names on the waiting list. 3 rents had been collected since the last meeting. There is a plot near the road that is proving very difficult to let. The TVG will look at it with a view to improvement.

Inserted item: Joint Tenancy. Paul had looked at the Constitution and realised that as a joint tenant he does not have a vote despite being Chair and one of the Trustees. Several other committee members are in the same position. After some discussion it was decided that we would either change the wording in the Constitution at an AGM or insert an explanatory note at the end of the document. A form will be produced to update Tenancy Agreements when the next rent letter goes out.

7. Treasurer's report: John said that we need a new person to check the accounts, we do not need a full audit just an independent inspection by a competent person. He will try to find a suitable one. We are spending too much, our income stream has been greatly reduced, so we need to reign in.

There is the possibility of looking at grant funding for capital expenditure. Projects would need to be costed before an application was made. There was a mention of grants from BIFFA, projects need to have an element of community involvement. John will look into BIFFA.

8. Secretary's report: none

9. Planning Application: Committee have been emailed about this, the deadline for Artist's designs has been extended to the 5th April. Roundhay Artist's Group has been contacted. It was decided that we would wait to see what came in and then consult metal fabricators about the design and cost .

10. Change to IPS/CIC: Paul has investigated this, he got the Model Rules from The National Society only to discover that the cost would be great, including £3 per member annually to the National plus £40 to the FSA for changes. John was concerned that the Trustees can have too much say in the disposal of assets, we need a model where the membership has more say and that there are many of these CICs on the internet. We could draw up a constitution, but it would need verifying by a professional. This is worth further exploration, CICs were designed to bring together charity and company law and would fit an organisation like ours.

All this has been motivated by the fact that National Power Grid will pay for the cost of lease alteration for the substation and it was thought that we might be able to have changes to our status done at the same time. However, as any change would have to be agreed at an AGM it was thought that there was insufficient time to prepare the Memorandum and Articles of Governance and get legal advice before the 10th April.

11. TVG: Lots of hedging work has been done on the Old Park Road boundary, the huge amount of wood generated by this is being gradually dealt with. Some thicker logs are being kept for the stumpy extension. Fence repairs have also been done. A lot of top soil has been bagged up for later use, but we do need all the soil removing so we will have space for the new container. Please encourage other plot holders to help themselves from the covered pile of soil. The shady wild flower area as been covered with matting and wood chippings and the previously lifted plants put in again. All this work should prevent excessive regrowth of weeds. We have welcomed 3 new volunteers recently – Sharon, Anita and Mike.

12. Newsletter: 17th March deadline, all items to Brian by this date please. The AGM date will be put in as well as appeals for more shop purchases.

13. Website: This will be held over until Brian is here, after a very long and dedicated time as Secretary, Brian has decided to resign. He is willing to do the newsletter and oversee the website in the short term. We need to recruit a new Secretary, Margaret said that as she was Minuting Secretary, it might be assumed that she would take over but both she and Paul thought it a very bad idea for a couple to take on the two pivotal roles of Chair and Secretary. Sharon and Anita's names came up, Peter and Steve will sound them out.

14. AGM: Date Tuesday 10 April. Paul said the agenda for the AGM could remain the same as last year.

15. LDAGF: AGM at the Civic Hall on Thu 22 March all welcome. The Learning Day on 24th March is oversubscribed Paul will report back after the event.

16. Non-members on site/security issues: Gates left open on at least one occasion. Padlock left off the sales container, alerted by Steve, locked by Paul. Gate padlocks left unlocked a few times.

17. Next management Committee Meeting: Monday 14th May 2018 at GSSC 7.30pm.

18. AOUB: Margaret had been asked by the person organising REAP Open Gardens if we would take part this year? It was decided that we would wait until we had all facilities in place before we took part.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.