

RAGA minutes 6 November 2017

Gledhow Sports and Social Club

Present: Paul, Steve, Brian, Peter, John, Primrose, Patrick and Margaret

1. **Welcome:** From Paul
2. **Apologies:** From Cath, she doesn't feel she is making a useful contribution, we thought she was and agreed that minutes should still be sent to her. Paul will speak to her.
3. **Minutes** of the last meeting held on 3 July 2017 were approved as a true record.
4. **Matters arising:** Peter's strimmer battery is the wrong type, John has sourced six barrels for water and the invoice has been forwarded to John. Bill Mathie reported that the "Made in Leeds" TV programme was very good.
5. **Plot Inspection:** Generally agreed that it is difficult to keep track of plots that need attention. Some rent letters will be withheld.
6. **Rent Letters:** The main issue was that because of a clash of holidays there was no updated list until after the deadline so this was extended until 9 November. 50 plotheolders have not yet paid but some may have done so by bank transfer, an updated list has now been passed from John to Brian.
7. **Update on plots let and plots now available:** Peter reported that there have been quite a few changes of tenancy. There are no vacant plots and just 9 on the waiting list. Some plot holders would like to change plots, the consensus was that this should continue to be allowed provided the plot holder has kept a good plot. Brian will circulate a list of people who haven't yet paid their rent and this can be matched against poor plots, and may give some leverage. As regards the 8 week probationary period, Peter intends to be flexible at this time of the year. Hopefully the September Plot Inspection weeded out those who hadn't done much.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** There is a balance of £31,544. There are 2 outstanding invoices – water barrels and Acorn. Steve can now act as a signatory. Paul asked how much money we can devote to a new building. Answer - £20 to £25K. John would like to find matched funders. Paul and John need to discuss insurance for equipment, there was a proposal of £3,000 to include fixtures and fittings and to list the stock as £2,000
9. **Secretary's Report:** Just one item of correspondence. On 3 November Bill Mathie observed a trader who had set up on the pavement at the junction of Old Park Road near our fence, disposing of rubbish onto our land. He attempted without success to find out if they were licenced or not. This situation has been noted but we agreed that trying to pursue it would be problematic; we will just keep it in mind for the 2018 Roundhay Park Bonfire Event.
10. **Update on our Planning application:** Luke Rayner said in an email that wooden cladding might be acceptable but would it be fire retardant? Paul spoke to the MD of a company in Scotland who apply a fibreglass skim to containers. This company could do the building for about 25K but a container already on site could be cladded for 8 to 9K, the cladding is fire retardant so it would just smoulder. Christian has had a meeting with planners but nothing has been resolved. Paul feels one removed from the situation and as John seemed very knowledgeable about planning procedures Margaret suggested that he went to a meeting with Paul to the Planning

Department but he wasn't prepared to do so. He did suggest that we offer some payment to CS so that the application can be speeded up, or perhaps we could engage a Planning Consultant.

11. **Decision on proposed Substation:** Northern Power will dig the trench and install electricity for us. LCC will give us a one off payment of £250. Paul is to ask what the building material will be. Peter asked if we could refuse permission, answer- the Trustees could until our 25 year lease was up. No answer as yet as to whether we are a Statutory Allotment or not.
12. **Thursday Volunteer Group:** The skip came at a very opportune time for us to dispose of our rubbish. We have been busy plot clearing, hedge trimming, grass cutting and tidying in the wildlife area.
13. **Confirm date for the AGM:** proposed date Thursday 19 April 2018 to be confirmed
14. **LDAGF:** next meeting Wed 29 November Civic Hall 7.30pm. Paul outlined how they are trying to reinvigorate the Federation, there will be a Learning Day at the Arium in February, the group insurance has been successful in keeping premiums down but only a handful of people turn up at meetings and more allotment association representatives are needed. Margaret goes sometimes; Peter said he would go in future but not to the November meeting as he is away.
15. **None members on site/ security issues:** None
16. **Next Management Committee meeting :** Monday 8 January 2018
17. **AOUB:** Peter is away between November and New Year, he will set an out of office message and Paul will deal with any urgent business. There was no desire for a Christmas Get-together, so Ba Humbug! John asked if Barbara and Ian could be invited to the Jan meeting to discuss how we promote the 'shop,' Margaret will investigate bespoke signs and pass on the information to the committee so we can make a decision whether to go ahead or not.