

Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society.
Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
5th Sept 2009 at OCRAA Dundee

Present	Mandy Fooks	President	Fife
	Andrew Reid	Edinburgh Treasurer	
	Judy Wilkinson	Glasgow	
	Peter Wright.	Edinburgh	Minutes
	Jenny Mollison,	Musselburgh	
	Jimmy McGregor	Dundee	
	Helen Pank	FCFCG	

Prior to meeting an informal discussion had taken place with Jim Stirton (Clepinstone Allotments Dundee).

- 1 **Apologies for Absence** Ian Welsh (Vice president), Barbara de la Rue (Webmaster), Frank Taylor (Aberdeen), Jane Gray (Borders), Aislinn Haszeldine (Falkland), John Fearn (Education), Chris Wilkinson (Archives), Sam Murray (Planning)
- 2 **Agenda.** The agenda and decision list had been circulated prior to meeting.
- 3 **Minutes** April were approved with no objections
- 4 **Date of next Meeting.** 14th Nov in Fife or Perth **MF to arrange**
- 5 **Treasurer's Report.** £16,594.98 in bank includes the red ringed SASU monies (£10K) only for use for allotments in general in Scotland. Cheque from Andrew Thin lost in post (£2K for seminar/briefings support) **AR** to sort. New sites had joined. Link membership had been renewed. Membership of CSVO was discussed and Helen asked to advise or represent **HP**
- 6 **Business Arising from Minutes**
 - **Ten-year Plan** Current targets need to have some measurement to gauge progress and be updated regularly and displayed on the web site.
The following was agreed and actioned to **BdIR help from all in obtaining data.**
 - Changing density of allotment/1,000 of the population.
 - Waiting list increase/decrease
 - Completion/drafting of Allotment strategies by the LA's.
 - Increase in allotment officers in LA's
 - **Trophies MF and IW** to liaise about transporting the trophies to Fife for competition in Fife. **MF** to liaise with Fife. **PJW** to approach Dick Youngson to see if he could use the trophies in 2010- Beautiful Scotland could perhaps help with organisation and judging if required.
 - **Party Manifestos.** There needed to a commitment from the parties to ensure that land was made available for allotments, community gardens and orchards. Roseanna Cunningham had indicated in her Conference speech that the Government was taking the matter seriously. Any questions and responses in Parliament, articles/speeches, announcements to be put the web site. **BdIR with continuing input information from all.**
Our MSP sponsor list to be reviewed and broadened **JM**
 - **Membership Cards AR and BdIR** to design, cost, and produce. **AR** to distribute one to each member site and one to each individual member.
 - **Newsletter BdIR and JG** to look at possibility of producing the bi-annual newsletter in colour similar to the welcome pack, four pages of A4. Meantime **PJW** would produce single A4 sheet as in past. See below for deadlines for articles from Committee members and distribution dates.
 - **GYOWG** The wish list has been commented on by committee and **JW** is authorised to progress via Alistair Prior and his yet to be nominated replacement.

- 7 Endorse**
- **ARI Plot holders Guide JM/PJW** to divide English version among committee to revise as a Scottish friendly document. **BdIR** to progress legal input. Photographs to be Scottish. ARI have offered £1K to fund this work if necessary. Formatting and printing would be done by ARI/FCFCG. The launch would be at the First Scottish Allotments Forum sometime in Spring 2010.
 - **Private Landowners Guide.** Liaison with SNH (Catriona Morrison, Scott Ferguson), Landshare, private land-owners etc to set up seminar to devise a set of good practice guidelines for renting land to gardeners, communities, orchards etc. **JM** to follow up SRPBA **HP** to talk to Trellis, Scott Ferguson etc **JW/HP/JM**
 - **Design for allotments JG and JW** to look for funding to progress design brief.
 - **Research into CO2 footprints with St Andrews- AH** to progress
- 8 Annual Allotments Conference June 19th 2010**
- MF** confirmed Dunblane booked June 19th2010
- No reply from Nicola Sturgeon yet however Health theme of the Conference confirmed. Whether two day, with first day Friday 18th June in Glasgow and GC involvement, with second day in Dunblane on 19th will be dependent on whether or not Nicola Sturgeon is available. Or stick with one-day event on 19th June
- Possible Programme two day event
- Friday aimed at senior Council Managers and plot holders
- a.m. Keynote speeches with Q&A session
- p.m. Workshops: Management of sites; Management of waiting lists; Climate Change Act implementation; SOA indicators for healthy gardeners; Sustainable development; Sustainable design on a shoe-string
- Saturday Aimed at allotment officers and plot holders
- a.m. Exemplar case studies from members relating to the health aspects of allotments with Q&A session.
- p.m. Usual reports from across Scotland
- workshops: GP referrals; Trellis; Healthy Gardeners
- Designs on a shoestring
- Late p.m. AGM 16.30 Note for AGM 2010, under Constitution approved 2008, MF and AR must retire but they are eligible for re-election for a further 3 years.
- PW** to progress contact with Nicola Sturgeon. **JW** to sound out Glasgow Council and Health Board, **HP** to follow up health contacts. Decision end September.
- 9 Holyrood Event “Hands in the Earth”** To be staged at Holyrood in September 2010 with the launch of the revised CoSLA document. **JM to liaise with Link** as to best dates and way forward based on our previous experience. **PW and JM** to book Holyrood and set Event in motion.
- 10 Allotments Officers Event** Deborah Burn via **HP** to get the LA contact list **from JW/CW/BdIR** and sound enthusiasm for an event. Edinburgh Council have been forwarded the Allotment Officers meeting English format, and it has been suggested that they host the first event. No reply yet – **DB, HP , IW and PW** to progress.
- 11 Conferences**
- Battleby 2nd Oct FCFCG/ARI** Workshop to facilitated by **JM/JW/PJW** on Allotments and Councils.
- 6th Oct Greenspace SROI (Social return on Investment).** Ask SG if seminar can be arranged for FCFCG, SAGS, Trellis to produce SROI brief on allotments and community gardens **HP**
- 16/17 Sept SNH** SAGS literature needed for display, to be sent to Vicky of TRELLIS via **HP/JM**

10th Sept 350ppm Climate Change Event Jane Gray

15th Sept. TRELIS gardening Event in Dundee

12 AOB

- **Health benefits of Allotments/Gardens.** Get in touch with Dr Bird author of Natural Fit and find useful links/info' **PJW. JM** to contact the Edinburgh University Health Statistics Section for information.
- **Proposed Rent Increases Edinburgh** Use SROI to identify benefits of allotments. Use Edinburgh as an exemplar for other LA's in Scotland **HP and JW** to progress allotments/community gardens as SROI exemplars.
- **Shetland trip** – Trellis and FCFCG planning awareness raising on Islands to islands and ask if SAGS interested in joining in. Probably SAGS would be fact finding trip but happy to liaise. **HP, JM, JW**

Meetings/Executive visits rolling list

Meeting	Date	Venue/Action	Status
Newsletter deadline	9 th Oct 2009	PJW	Agreed
Newsletter Distribute	18 th Oct 2009	AR	Agreed
ECM	14th Nov 2009	Fife	Agreed
ECM	9 th Jan 2010	Glasgow	Agreed
ECM	17 th April	Edinburgh	Agreed

Distribution: By Email to

Executive Committee Mandy Fooks (President), Ian Welsh (Vice President), Andrew Reid (Treasurer), Barbara De La Rue (Web master), Jenny Mollison (Musselburgh), Judy Wilkinson (Glasgow), Peter Wright (Edinburgh), Alistair MacKinnon (Dunoon), Jane Gray (Borders), Aislinn Haszeldine (Falkland, Transition Towns), Jimmy McGregor (Dundee), Mary Blyth (Glasgow), Helen Pank FCFCG

Co-opted Members

Chris Wilkinson (archivist)

Dick Youngson Nairn representative by post

Sam Murray (consultant)

John Fearn (Education consultant)

Liz MacKinlay (Conference organisation),

SAGS Trophies Annual Distribution

Year	Region	Responsible
2009	Fife	Mandy Fooks
2010	Highland	Dick Youngson / Peter Wright
2011	Dundee	Peter Wright/ Jimmy Mcgregor
2012	Renfrewshire	Judy Wilkinson
2013	Edinburgh	Peter Wright

PJW 8/09/09