

# WIRRAL FEDERATION OF ALLOTMENT SOCIETIES

## Minutes of Committee Meeting

2.30pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010, St Stephen's Church Hall, Prenton

**1 Members Present** - Barbara Higson, Dave Morris, Margaret Campbell, Ron Jones, Peter France, Fabienne Matthews, Nigel Brierley, Tony Niblock, Rose Chandler

**2 Apologies** - from Lynne Goddard & Mike Griffiths

**3 Minutes of last meeting** - Agreed.

**Matters arising** - Item 3 - Council report expected overspend by £25-30k on allotment budget 2009-2010.  
- Item 5 - tenancy agreement finalised and has gone out.

**4 Accounts / Federation Grants** - balance £538. DM reported nsalg grant to come in of approx. £170. No WFAS grant applications received from Societies.

**5 Open Space Assessment** - Draft document was sent to WFAS Chair and Allotment Association Chair. This document was circulated and discussed. Concern expressed that the council has ignored consultation requirements and the report makes recommendations about allotments which take no account of the wishes & needs of allotment holders or those on the waiting list. Agreed that WFAS will write to the council to complain. **MC will draft letter.**

**6 Quality standard for sites** - DM & FM will form working group to work with council to finalise this.

**7 Guide for new tenants** - As there are already various new tenant guides around, it was decided that the Federation will draw together details of where these can be found and circulate to allotment societies. Societies can then offer this to new tenants with local relevant information (useful phone numbers etc). **DM will draw together details.**

**8 Steering Group** - nothing to report at present, next meeting later in the week.

**9 ADO / funding** - The council are asking the Steering group to decide whether to reappoint the ADO or divide the remainder of the money between sites. At a meeting attended by 13 site secretaries they had voted to divide the money, but some of the site secretaries on the Fed committee said that they had not known that this vote was taking place, and felt that Association members should be balloted on such an important decision. Agreed that Assoc & Federation would ballot members at the next available meeting, and that Fed reps at next Steering Group meeting would support ADO. **DM & MC will draw up pros & cons and ballot paper.**

**10. Green Gyms** - Although 'Green Gyms' were dismissed, there is still the potential for joint working with NHS Wirral on health related allotment projects. **MC will make contact with NHS Wirral.**

**11. Carpets on plots** - MC had an enquiry from someone to ask if hessian-backed carpets could be used. Committee confirmed that all carpets are banned in new tenancy agreement.

### **12 Any other business**

- Council are writing a policy on Bees on sites. **DM will keep an eye on this & report back.**
- NSALG point to legislation to say that people have an absolute right to keep chickens on allotments.
- Southport show - This year Roger Merry will be drawing up a wish list for produce to let people know earlier what will be needed.
- Birkenhead Show will be in August again this year.
- DM asked for volunteer for NW NSALG - FM offered to go.

**13 Date of next meeting** - Mon 15th March at 2.30pm.