

WIRRAL FEDERATION OF ALLOTMENT SOCIETIES
www.wirralfedallotments.org.uk

Minutes of meeting - Friday 23rd April 2010, 7.30pm

1. Members present - as per register, plus - Roger Calvert, WMBC Senior Parks Officer and Peter Riley, WMBC Lottery Officer.

2. Apologies - Josie Sullivan, David Earnshaw, Mike Griffiths, Lynne Goddard, Peter Tame, Joy Hogg.

3. Minutes of last meeting - agreed as a true record

Matters arising - the guide for new tenants is done and will go to the next committee meeting.

4. Treasurer's update / grants - current balance is £507.43, no grants have been applied for.

5. Allotment watch - sites at Harris and Dawson have now received and applied Smart Water.

6. Strategy document - RC outlined the unfinished actions in the Strategy:

- Review provision and identify need - awaiting the Open Space Assessment
- Quality Standard - currently working with WFAS to decide this
- Site Surveys - still need finishing
- Security Audit - not finished yet, will be shared with sites when done
- Improvement Plans for each site - these will involve the site secretaries and societies.

They could be used to support funding bids. Richard Hill asked if these could be published on the council website as a resource for all sites - RC indicated that this should be possible.

George McGarrigle asked if sites could see the survey work done by ADO in order to find out what improvements were currently being considered by the council. RC replied that that work was really an internal document, that nothing is currently planned for sites on the basis of this, and that work will be based on the site surveys and improvement plans.

RC was asked to clarify the new arrangements with site secretaries. He said that there had been no change to their job description, but that as council appointees they would in future be managed as a team. Communication would be improved by team briefings to all secretaries, to be more widely circulated on site notice boards and WFAS website.

RC advised that a new ADO had been appointed - Frank Holford. His priorities would be to look at additional provision, self management, and help new societies form.

7. Tenancy agreement - All have gone out and many have been signed. A few complaints about carpets. Council has drafted a code of practice on bees, hens and pigeons on sites.

8. Quality standards for sites - A draft has been produced by David Jones, and he and RC will discuss further.

9. Open Space Assessment - This will look at local needs, and be used to make planning decisions. The next stage is consultation on the draft document. This should happen soon.

10. News from sites

- Theft of six wheelbarrows from Fairview.
- Coronation Park have just had grant for £1,000 of compost.
- Ormonde had been having problems with break-ins and found that taking the issue up with their local councillor had produced help with regular visits from PCSO's.
- Gilroy don't yet have any land.
- Teehey showed 125 local school children round the site.
- Love Lane now have a secondary school on site (as well as a primary school) and have allocated another ½ plot to them.
- There had been a recent mix up with dirty plot notices - RC said that some plot numbers were confusing and might be missing, but that photos would be taken of all dirty plots to try to provide a record.
- Salacre have a new website - www.salacreallotments.co.uk

11. Any other business - Details of the Birkenhead, Teehey and Southport shows and other dates for diaries will go on the website.

Roger Merry and Dave Morris will be coordinating plant donations for Southport - list to go on website.

Church Road has offered to host a site visit for WFAS members on Sunday 16th May at 12 noon - all welcome.

Harris has offered the same for Sun 13th June also at 12 noon.

George mentioned that the nsalg were tightening up on membership and that the fees might put some sites off.

12. Date of next meeting - AGM on June 25th, 7.30 pm, same venue.

Presentation

Peter Riley, Council Lottery Officer gave an excellent presentation on applying for Lottery grants. He explained that bids from allotment sites for £10,000 are likely to be successful, and that the procedure for applying was straightforward. He is available to help societies work through what they need to do and how to do it, and would welcome any enquiries.