

## GLASGOW ALLOTMENTS FORUM

### Minutes Meeting Woodside Halls 7pm Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup> 2010

**1. Present:** Eric Dryburgh (Chair), Betty Stewart (Treasurer), Judy Wilkinson (Secretary), Robert Watson (Allotments Officer), Representatives from Merrylee, Kelvinside, Mansewood, Berridale, Hamiltonhill, Budhill and Springboig, South Western, North Kelvin Meadows, Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society,

**Apologies** Liz MacKinlay (Chair), Alec Tweedie and Joyce Gibson (High Carntyne), Barbara De La Rue (Kelvinside), Roger Downie (Kelvinside), Terry Parker (Mansewood), Margaret Kerr (Oatlands) Cllrs George Roberts, Martha Wardrop and Mary Paris

**2. Minutes last meeting for approval** – approved Ian Welsh, Mary Blyth

**3. Treasurer's Report** **13 January 2010.**

*INCOME since 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009:*

Nil

*EXPENDITURE since 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009*

Venues : Nov. AGM meeting	£ 14.40
2 working parties	£14
Annual subs.: SAGS subscription	£75
Domain name registration	£11.50

**£114.90**

**Balance in Bank**

**£362.26**

**4. Land Environmental Services Allotment Officers Report**

**• Site Works**

Balnock Community Allotments - Received part funding from LES and Glasgow City Council Area Committee to further improve the site boundary. An order has been placed with Blacksmiths to install fencing.

Beechwood Allotments – With funding from LES, a bid for part funding has been submitted to Area Committee to replace a section of the site boundary fence.

Oatlands Leisure Gardens – The developer has started grounds works to prepare the relocation of the site. Ground works have been delayed due the adverse weather conditions. The completion of the new site is scheduled for Feb/March 2010.

Hamiltonhill – Treatment to the Japanese Knotweed will commence in April/May, dependent on weather conditions. Further treatments, if required will be scheduled later in year. Parks Operations will meet a representative from the allotments prior to treatment commencing to advise on spraying procedure and schedule.

Land and Environmental Services have created a demonstration allotment garden at Pollok Park. This garden was created to promote allotments and provide a facility where novice and experienced ploholders can visit and listen to talks given by LES staff and to learn various aspects of allotment gardening. Cardonald College will be carrying out class based gardening courses in their prospectus for 2010 and have included this venue for providing on-site practical demonstrations. These classes commence in January and April 2010. For further information on the classes, please contact the college on 0141 272 3333. Further information on the course schedule can be obtained from the college web page at: [www.cardonald.ac.uk/courses/show/501](http://www.cardonald.ac.uk/courses/show/501) or via the GAF website. [www.glasgowallotmentsforum.org.uk](http://www.glasgowallotmentsforum.org.uk)

LES are also looking to create a larger demonstration garden at Bellahouston Park, which will have a number of plots allocated to local schools and possibly to local individual ploholders. The site has been cleared of all growth and a layout plan is being designed by LES

Landscape Design Team. Funding sources are being investigated by LES.

**• St Mungo Trophy** – Consider judging schedule and location for presenting the 2010 trophy. 2010 Glasgow Show takes place, Saturday 31st July & Sunday 1st August,

- **Funding** – All allotment associations are encouraged to apply to Council Area Committee's for funding. Staff at the Chief Executives Office can advise on how to complete forms. The Allotments Officer can also offer advice on filling in details.
  - **Schools and Allotments** – The Schools and Allotments Working Group held a meeting on 3rd December 2009 at Merrylee Primary. It is intended to arrange another meeting around March 2010, possibly in a school in the North of the city. Details will be sent in due course. All allotment associations are invited to send a representative.
  - **Bees** – A beekeeper is looking to install some bee hives on allotment sites, would any associations be able to provide some space on their sites to accommodate some hives. Several sites expressed interest. Contact Allotments Officer for more details on 0141 287 5729.
  - Missives** – Could secretaries please return all missives asap. Please advise any plothead who is applying for a concession that they must provide details to Land and Environmental Services at 37 High Street. Plotheaders who have previously provided details of over 60 concession, are not required to provide this annually.
- ACTION ALL**

#### **Questions from allotment officers report:**

- (i) Budhill and Springboig - Contractor carrying out works on neighbouring housing development is committed to relocating allotment gates and toilets, this was to be completed by October 2009, no action so far.. **ACTION RW**
- (ii) GAF to organise talk from beekeeper for any sites who are interested in accommodating bees **ACTION Secretary**
- (iii) Discussion on demand for allotments and available land. RW trying to get waiting lists from private sites to assess total demand in city. Suggested invite housing associations to GAF. Ian to send details of land which may be available and check with the SAGE audit of waste and derelict land. Post code mapping of waiting lists to get clear picture of demand. Suggestion that "Parisian" style allotment should be designed for Dawsholm Park to assess viability of open access site. **ACTION RW, Secretary, Ian Welsh**
- (iv) **Open Gates** – Members expressed support for joining the Open Doors programme with Open Gates. **ACTION RW, Secretary**

#### **5. Matters arising from minutes**

- (i) New Trophy – **Three new trophies envisaged** – Sustainable site, New plot-holder (with Incorporation of Gardeners) and School cup (John Fearn) Draft criteria circulated. LES asked to help with judging, publicity, and presentations. \* **NEED MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED – please contact Jan (jan.lynn2303@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping.\*** **ACTION Jan MacDonald**
- (ii) Funding – Landfill Trust - RW said not available for allotments but secretary to investigate if 'community gardens' can access funds and what the criteria are for them **ACTION secretary**
- (v) Questionnaire on maintenance – the Policy Working group had expressed concern over the cost, need and problems for organic plots of putting allotments onto a Parks Maintenance schedule. Barbara De La Rue had devised a questionnaire (circulated with agenda) to find out position. Agreed Secretary should send round to all associations with a covering letter explaining the concerns of the working group. **ACTION Barbara De La Rue, secretary.**

#### **6. Reports:**

- (i) Policy Working Group (Secretary) – minutes attached
- (ii) Schools and Allotments group (John Fearn) – see Allotment Officers report
- (iii) Glasgow Clyde Valley – SAGE workshop (Betty Stewart)  
GCV Green Network. Conference 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009.  
*One of the participating organisations was SAGE (Sow and Grow Everywhere) which was set up by NVA and ERZ Landscape Architects in May 2009.*

SAGE is "hoping to generate a massive change in community food growing" in Glasgow. It would like to see derelict land areas transformed into vibrant and visually attractive places for people to grow their own food. Local people would need to raise funds for their project. Planting bags and raised beds would be mobile and transportable, so that when the land space was needed in the future e.g. for development, everything could be moved and set up somewhere else. Gardening advice would be provided by a link to the nearest source of expertise. SAGE has received 3 years funding from Culture and Sport, Glasgow to help develop demonstration sites across the city.

(iv) Web working group – Setting up a sustainable allotments web site

**<http://glasgowallotments.wordpress.com/>**

Jan asks 'if you have any ideas or suggestion please send to me, I'm anxious to make it as interactive as possible; there are lots of good web-sites out there to which we can provide links - I see no need to "re-invent the wheel"! The aim is to get gardeners and plot-holders across Glasgow to share their info & ideas on sustainability.

**CONTACT Jan:**

jan.lynne2303@gmail.com

(v) Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society – Annual Scottish Allotments Conference Day 1 will be hosted by Glasgow City Council in Parish Halls on June 18<sup>th</sup>, Day 2 June 19<sup>th</sup> will be in Victoria Halls Dunblane. Draft programme will be on web shortly [www.sags.org.uk](http://www.sags.org.uk) –

**CONTACT Judy** ((judy@atlas.co.uk)

## **7. Correspondence**

(i) Incorporation of Gardeners – Support of GAF expressed. GAF suggests an event next year and then every two years but meantime explore possible support for a new plot-holders trophy or award

**ACTION Betty Stewart**

(ii) Debate in parliament December 17<sup>th</sup> 2009 –

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor1217-02.htm#Col22327>

## **8. AOB**

(i) Cookie Club willing to barter allotment produce for dinner/ cooking classes

<<http://cookiecookingclub.wordpress.com/>><http://cookiecookingclub.wordpress.com/>

(ii) Seed Swop January 30<sup>th</sup> East Kilbride <http://www.ekdevtrust.com/seedexchange.html>

(iii) Potato days – anyone with information about Borers Organic gardeners or Dunblane potato days please email the web secretary at [gaf27@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gaf27@hotmail.co.uk)

## **9. Date next meeting – March 17<sup>th</sup> 2010**