

Glasgow Allotments Forum
Minutes Meeting Woodside Halls, Glenfarg Street, off St Georges Rd
Wednesday July 1st 2009

1. Present Liz MacKinlay (Chair), Betty Stewart (Treasurer) , Judy Wilkinson (Secretary), Robert Watson (Allotments Officer); Representatives from New Victoria Gardens, Merrylee, Kelvinside, Mansewood, High Carntyne, , Oatlands, Berridale, Budhill and Springboig, Beechwood, North kelvin Meadows, Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society, ARI; Cllr George Roberts, Cllr Martha Wardrop,

2. Apologies: Eric Dryburgh, Margaret Kerr, Alison Drummond, Joyce Gibson, Pat Tweedie, Ellen and Alec Hutcheon, Jan MacDonald, Kate Venart, Barbara De La Rue

3. Minutes last meeting approved Alec Tweedie and John Fearn

4. Treasurers report.

INCOME since May Report:

Sale of plants **£30**

EXPENDITURE since May. Report:

Venue for May GAF meeting **£9.60**

BALANCE IN BANK July 2009. £232.07

4. Allotment Officer's Report - 1st July 2009 - Glasgow Allotments Forum

Site Works

Site Boundaries – Land and Environmental Services have secured some small funding and will be prioritising those allotment sites where there is a need to improve the site boundaries. The Allotments Officer will liaise with the associations where these works will be carried out.

Trinley Brae Allotments - Work to erect fencing on site boundary has been completed.

Allotments Strategy – Strategy was presented to the Executive Committee on 12th June. Strategy was supported and passed. LES to arrange printing of document and set up launch, possibly around September 2009.

St Mungo Trophy – Competition information has been sent to all association secretaries. Judging to take place week commencing 27th July. The presentation of the trophy will take place at the Glasgow Show, Glasgow Green, 1-2 August 2009, exact day and time still to be confirmed. Remind all associations to return all applications by 17th July 2009.

Judging criteria will remain as in previous years. Addition of fruit, compost and greenhouse produce to be considered for future competition.

Matters Arising from previous meeting 6.5.09

Oatlands – Allotments Officer met with officers from Glasgow Community & Safety Services on 29th May 2009, following this meeting GC&SS put in place a schedule for Enforcement Officers to patrol the area during their rounds and also to periodically visit the site with a mobile CCTV camera. Work has started to remove the rubble from the demolished flats.

Hamiltonhill – Japanese Knotweed – Parks Operations have indicated that they will carry out treatment within the next few weeks.

Link Tip Cages – Waste Disposal suggested depositing similar sized materials that would be put into a brown bin for domestic garden waste (less than 7cm diameter). LES Officers are to meet to put in place a size specification for the disposal of green waste, this specification will be considered for the disposal of green waste from allotments.

AOCB

Recycle Bins – LES officers to meet to discuss the possibility of providing recycle bins to allotments. Would plotters consider using redundant wheelie bins as water butts. Bins have broken handles/lids/wheels. Each association to provide Allotments Officer with quantities required.

5. Other Matters arising from minutes

(i) organisation St Mungo Trophy awards, site visits, photographer and Glasgow Show. - Agreed to contact sites about 'open gates' in August. These would be simple events where allotments would just be open for viewing. List of site Open Days and Open Gates will be on web.

Action Secretary, Robert Watson, Betty Stewart and Webmaster

On-going - contribution to National Allotments Week next year.

(ii) New Trophy- proposals for next meeting but should contain an element of recycling. Schools trophy to be incorporated in next years awards

Action Secretary

(iii) Balornock

Councillor Roberts reported on actions by Baillie Greene.

- *Fencing – LES will possibly partially fund.*
- *Tie up with local schools – possible Res 3 money available?*
- *Tie up with Health Board for people with disabilities – possible NHS funding?*
- *Use of contaminated land to grow flowers- eg Sighthill ex-allotment*
- *Free plant pot supply via Baillie Greene*
- *Free CCTV equipment supply by Baillie Greene – installation still to be planned/funded.*
- *Area committee funding?*

(iv) Oatlands – No recent vandalism. Committee voted against shop on site and to campaign to retain existing allotments. Open day August 8th

(v). Funding for allotments

(a) Local associations should apply to their Area Committees. Note associations can apply outwith immediate Area committee if plot-holders resident in neighbouring Areas.

http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/YourCouncil/Council_Committees/Committees/AreaCommittees/applicationformsandguidance.htm

Robert Watson will provide application form template on general questions.

Action Robert Watson

List associations that have applied and description successful applications

Action Robert Watson

Advice sheet on how to apply

Action Robert Watson and secretary

If associations wish GAF will help them give a presentation on Allotments to the Area committees. If Area committee have no allotments in their area then GAF will ask to make a presentation.

Action Judy Wilkinson, Betty Stewart, Barbara de la Rue

(b) Res 3 money - has any res 3 money been given to allotments?

Action Cllr Roberts

(c) Better Glasgow Fund - Oatlands received £40K - is this for fencing? Have any other allotments received funding from better Glasgow Fund and is this a source of funding?

Action Cllr Wardrop

(d) Glasgow Community Planning Partnership - 10 local committees. Set SOA for Council. Associations should contact local community representative.

List partnerships and contacts **Action Cllr Wardrop**
Briefing paper for associations on how to engage **Action Secretary**

(e) Community reference groups – list contacts **Action Cllr Wardrop**
Briefing paper for associations on how to engage **Action Secretary**

(f) Community Health and Care partnership report will launch a report on food in August. Cllr Wardrop will forward it and the Secretary will write to Andrew Robertson, Chair Glasgow health Board requesting a meeting

Action Cllr Wardrop and secretary

(vi) Schools and Allotments: Sustainability and Environment committee
Cllr Roberts has requested paper on schools and allotments for the Sustainability and Environment Committee. When request received Judy Wilkinson and John Fearn to organise response.

Action Secretary and John Fearn

John Fearn reported BBC film on asylum seekers and Merrylee

(vii) Seeds and seed producers – recommended seeds for good results

Ongoing Action Judges and Web-master

(ix) Welcome Packs – ongoing please send examples Welcome Packs to Robert so Glasgow City Allotments Welcome Pack can be produced. **Action All**

6. Reports

(i) Web working group – website is up dated regularly.

(ii) Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society

The Annual Scottish Allotments Conference 2009 was very successful with presentations from the Minister for the Environment Roseanna Cunningham, the Chair of Lothian Health Board, the Director of the Sustainable Development Commission Scotland and the co-ordinator for Transition Scotland Support. In the afternoon there were reports from new and existing sites across Scotland highlighting local action and the differences in Council support - for example Dundee is giving a 20 year lease. The presentations will be on the web shortly.

The conference finished with workshops ranging from site maintenance and costs to acquiring land out-with Councils and organic gardening. Over 100 people attended, a mixture of plot-holders, local government officers and representatives from interested organisations such as SNH, Trellis, Fairlie Organics, Scottish water.

SAGS is now looking at a work programme for the coming year based on the issues arising from the conference and the fact that interest in allotments is rising rapidly. There were 23 new sites formed in the last two years (including two on Shetland) and over 60 groups looking for land. Watch this space.

(iii) ARI: a new mentor has been appointed to Dundee. Next year support National Allotments Week with ‘Open Gates’ plan . **Action Ian Welsh**

7. Correspondence

(i) Jenny Simpson – Trellis. Refer to Landshare

(ii) North Kelvin Meadows. Douglas Peacock presented the campaign www.northkelvinmeadow.com. Cllr Wardrop suggested that derelict sites are an eyesore so even temporary allotment sites should be welcomed. Send ‘Growing Scotland’ link to Douglas. Agreed secretary write to Chief Executive and Lord Provost asking for support and also circulate GAF members with information.

Action All, Secretary

(iii) Oatlands – open Day August 8th. GAF to support campaign to keep existing plots until new site is found.

(iv) CCA (Centre for Contemporary Arts) – working group to explore joint projects of benefit to GAF. See the article in the Herald July 10th

2009http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2519064.0.Planting_seeds_of_change_to_push_doors_wide_open.php

(v) Jim Coyle new Green Spaces Development Manager for Glasgow City Council, plans to address GAF meeting in September or November.

(vi) SAGE email from Eleanor Logan about SAGE project www.nva.org.uk.

Information on project, Secretary to write to Cllr Roberts **Action Secretary**

8. AOB

(i) Action plan for allotments submitted to Sustainability and Environment committee - Robert to check status and Judy to circulate when appropriate.

Action Robert Watson

(ii) Ian Welsh reported there were there linked porta cabins with toilets that were available in Greenock. Any association interested please contact Ian.

ian.welsh23@btinternet.com

(iii) Big Lunch Sunday July 19

<http://www.edenproject.com/visiting-eden/whats-on/the-big-lunch.php>

“ Imagine on one day of the year, in every home across the nation, we all got up with a single purpose in mind. We are going to have lunch outside, on the street, with our neighbours. We will have prepared it ourselves. We will be doing our thing: a bring-your-own, open-air party for 61 million people. We are calling it simply The Big Lunch: a day - Sunday, July 19 - when, for four glorious hours, cars will stop, wardens will stop, egos will stop and Britain will come together in the street to meet, greet, share, sing, dance, play and laugh for no reason other than we all well need to.”

Suggestion that sites join in

Action All

(iv) Plants needed for Glasgow Show – 1st and 2nd August. Contact Betty

Action All

9. Date next meeting Wednesday September 2nd 2009