

Glasgow Allotments Forum

Minutes Meeting Woodside Halls, Glenfarg Street, off St Georges Rd

Wednesday May 6th 2009

1. Present Liz MacKinlay (Chair), Eric Dryburgh (Vice chair), Judy Wilkinson (Secretary), Robert Watson (Allotments Officer); Representatives from New Victoria Gardens, Merrylee, Kelvinside, Mansewood, High Carntyne, Hamiltonhill, Barlornock, Oatlands, Berridale, Budhill and Springboig, Springburn, Beechwood, Holmlea, Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society, ARI; Cllr George Roberts, Cllr Martha Wardrop,

2. Apologies: Betty Stewart (Treasurer), Collette Dunn (Victoria Park), Joyce Gibson (High Carntyne), Cllr Mary Paris, Cllr Danny Alderslowe

3. PRESENTATION on judging Sr Mungo's Trophy – Ed Patterson

Mr Patterson gave a very interesting presentation on his background and on judging the St Mungo trophy. He had an allotment in Alloa for 17 years, has grown seeds for several commercial producers and became a National Vegetable Society judge in 1977.

In judging the St Mungo the first plot sets the bench mark for the day. The scoring is 50 pts for vegetables, 30 pts for flowers, 10 pts for cleanliness and 10 pts for continuity. He awards 5 pts each for 10 kinds of vegetables, 5 pts each for 6 kinds of flowers. The judges are asked to disregard the contents of green houses.

- Vegetables: onions, leeks, cauliflower, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, peas, beetroot, celery, brassicas, beans (broad, runner, French), Shallots, Turnips, Swedes, sweet corn, marrows, courgettes, lettuce, chard .
- Flowers: sweet pea, gladioli, spray chrysanthemums, dahlias, fuchsias, hanging baskets, annual bedding, herbaceous- heleniums, phlox, summer bulbs, agapanthus, rambler roses etc
- Cleanliness- weed free plot and paths, no discarded potato haulms, no discarded thinnings, any detractors from overall impression.
- Continuity: in general 'follow on ' crops with no vacant ground. If early shallots have been lifted then replant with say 2nd crop of late salads or a nursery bed for wall-flowers, polyanthus,. If early potatoes have been lifted the plant up with winter greens or second batch of leeks .

There is no distinction in judging criteria between full and half plots. Full plots allows easier spacing but creates more weeding. Smaller plot limits the range of crops but easier to maintain.

Discussion after presentation:

- Agreed that GAF member would accompany judges to photograph plots.

Action GAF committee

- Ask winning sites to hold open evening or weekend.

Action GAF committee

- Ask judges to put information about recommended seeds and small producers on web and link to NVS day in November at Rosslyn where information and seeds are available.

Action Judges and Web-master

- Possibility fruit being included in judging criteria and compost for continuity marks.

Discussion on whether green house produce – tomatoes and cucumbers could be included.

Recommendation from Robert Watson

- Possibility of a new trophy to complement traditional St Mungo cup award. The new trophy would have more emphasis on organic methods, biodiversity (herbs, ponds, hedging), green manures, composting

Action – send Secretary thoughts for a proposal to next GAF meeting

4. Minute March approved – Proposer John Fearn (Merrylee)

5. Treasurers Report:

OPENING BALANCE [30.9.09]		£682.84	
Income			
Spring Event		£90.11	
Donations for Tea / coffee	£83.61		
11 'Guess the Seeds' @50p.	£6.50		
Expenditure			
Venues			£37.20
AGM & Nov. meeting	£13.95		
Jan. meeting	£9.30		
March meeting	£13.95		
Spring Event			£449.08
Feb. w/p venue	£10.20		
March w/p venue	£6.80		
April 'de-briefing'	£7		
Grooms for Tea/coffee	£333.50		
JMcD. Reimbursement	£40.89		
BS. Reimbursement	£50.69		
SAGS subscription			£75.00
	Totals	£772.95	£561.28
CLOSING BALANCE (May)		£211.67	

6. Allotments Officer Report:

(i) Site Works

- *Trinley Brae Allotments* - Work has now started to erect fencing on site boundary.
- *Westthorn Allotments* – New pathway on site has been completed.
- *New Victoria Gardens* - New gates have been fitted.
- *Balornock Allotments* – Small section of boundary fence has been erected around plot no1 and other repairs to railings carried out.
- *Hamiltonhill Allotments* - Clearance of the waste on site at middle gate has been completed.
- *Oatlands Leisure Gardens* – New fence has been erected around site. CCTV camera has been removed.

(ii) Allotments Strategy – Strategy was presented to Sustainability and the Environment Policy Development Committee on 29th April for consideration. It is to be presented to the Executive Committee for approval on 29th May.

(iii) St Mungo Trophy – Competition information has been sent to all association secretaries. Judging to take place week commencing 27th July. If GAF are in agreement,

presentation could be included in the programme at the Glasgow Show, Glasgow Green, 1-2 August 2009.

(iv) Matters Arising from previous meeting 18.3.09

- Briefing for the web - *Waste - good practice, greenwaste cages for composting*

No further information on good practice for waste management. However, Allotments Officer will meet with the Council's Waste Disposal Team to look at setting up a pilot project to provide allotment sites with waste recycle bins to reduce amount of general waste. This may be trialed at Budhill and possibly Hamiltonhill. Any associations who require a link-tip cage to remove green waste should contact Allotments Officer to arrange. Link-tip cages must only be used for green waste. It must be noted that as much green waste as possible should be composted on the allotment site.

- Events Guide

The Events guide on the GCC web does not cover concerns of associations running an event - can produce be sold? Jams and chutneys? How should produce be weighed - or just sold by bunch, number. Can't charge but can ask for donation?

General advice from Environmental Health, was that food to be sold was low risk as long as no meats or other temperature controlled foods were sold. Simply label jars containing 'jam', 'chutney' etc. Keep ready to eat fruits/veg away from dirty root vegetables. Ensure huts/cabins used for selling produce are rodent free and clean. Have water supply available for washing.

- Welcome Pack - *Council working on this. ARI have example - could be circulated.*

No further information on Welcome Pack

(v) Report on spending year 2008-9

The following allotments had site improvements 2008-2009.

Westthorn, new pathway	£8,500
Balornock, small section of new fencing installed	£1,630
Mansewood, new tarmac surface laid at entrance to site	£4,600
Trinley Brae, new boundary fence in progress	£8,910
New Victoria Gardens, new gates fitted	£1,334

Other smaller works such as fence, water supply repairs, waste clean up, were carried out at Balornock, Budhill & Springboig, Hamiltonhill, Victoria Park

7. Matters arising from Allotment Officers Report and minutes last meeting

(i) Barlornock – requesting new fence. Recent fire and concerns about safety school children. Robert Gray has written to Councillors, Council and Scottish Government about this. Secretary GAF to write to Council on receipt of police crime prevention report and report from school on concerns about safety. Cllr Roberts to discuss response with local Councillors.

Action Robert Gray, Secretary GAF, Cllr Roberts

(ii) Oatlands

Request that CCTV camera be re-installed asp and rubble cleared

Action Robert Watson, Secretary Oatlands, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Wardrop

(iii) Funding for allotments- Budhill requests raised beds and toilets for school access. Cllr Wardrop mentioned Better Glasgow Fund – for regeneration projects.

Action information for web – Webmaster and Secretary GAF

(iv) Japanese knot-weed Hamiltonhill

Report that knot-weed still spreading. Needs to be treated spring and autumn. Urgent Contact Ruchill to continue removal programme

Action Robert Watson

(v) St Mungo Trophy and Glasgow Show

Suggestion that winning sites be asked to open to other allotment association members immediately after award of trophy- possibly weekend of Glasgow Show. Robert Watson to liaise with GAF executive and working group for Glasgow show.

Action Robert Watson and GAF

(v) Link cages for green waste

Are green cages available for private sites?

What is maximum size of tree branches/shrubs that may be put in a green cage?

Action Robert Watson

(vi) Schools and Allotments

John Fearn highlighted difficulties in getting support for school/allotment projects. Because of this the School Shield award has not been progressed. Cllr Roberts suggested that he would discuss with his lead colleagues on the Education and Sustainability & Environment Committees the possibility of a presentation from GAF on current school/allotment projects.

Action Cllr Roberts

8. Report:

- **Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society**- Annual Scottish Allotments Conference Dunblane June 20th 2009. 10.15am – 4pm. All welcome – Free with a donation for lunch. Programme attached booking form on web – www.sags.org.uk

9. POSTPONED

Due to the interesting talk from Mr Patterson and a misunderstanding about the time we had to leave the Hall, the meeting ended before the rest of the agenda was completed.

Postponed until next meeting:

- (ii) Report Spring Event – *Jan MacDonald*
- (iii) Oatlands - *portacabin*
- (iii) Briefing papers for web- *Robert Watson, Liz Mackinlay, Jan MacDonald, Harry Scalley and Judy Wilkinson*
- (vi) Welcome Pack update.

10. Date next meeting Wednesday July 1st 2009

Agenda Glasgow Allotments Forum
Meeting Woodside Halls 7pm Wednesday July 1st 2009

1. Apologies

2. Minutes last meeting for approval

3. Treasurers report

4. Allotment Officer's Report

5. Matters arising from minutes

(i) organisation St Mungo Trophy awards, site visits, photographer and Glasgow Show.

Robert Watson and GAF

(ii) New judging criteria for St Mungo

Robert Watson

(iii) New Trophy

Secretary GAF

(iv)Barlornock

Robert Gray, Secretary GAF, Cllr Roberts

(v) Oatlands

Robert Watson, Secretary Oatlands, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Wardrop

(vi) Funding for allotments

Webmaster and Secretary GAF

(vii) Japanese knot-weed Hamiltonhill

Robert Watson

(viii) Link cages for green waste

Robert Watson

(ix) Schools and Allotments.

Cllr Roberts

(x) Seeds and seed producers

Action Judges and Web-master

6 Matters post-poned from May meeting:

(i) Report Spring Event – *Jan MacDonald*

(ii) Oatlands - portacabin

(iii) Briefing papers for web- *Robert Watson, Liz Mackinlay, Jan MacDonald, Harry Scalley and Judy Wilkinson*

(iv) Schools Shield – Report working group *John Fearn*

(v) Welcome Pack update.

7. Reports:

(i) Web working group

(ii) Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society

(iii) ARI

8. Correspondence

9. AOB

10. Date next meeting



PROGRAMME

Saturday June 20th 2009

10.15 Arrival, registration and coffee

10.25 Welcome

Mandy Fooks President SAGS

MORNING SESSION

10.30 **Minister for the Environment** – Roseanna Cunningham MSP

10.50 **Dr Charles Winstanley** – Chairman Lothian Health Board

11.05 **Maf Smith** – Director Sustainable Development Commission Scotland

11.25 **Eva Schonveld** – Transition Towns

11.45 **Panel question time** - Allotments and sustainability.

12.15 NETWORKING LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION Chaired by Sarah Boyack MSP

13.15 **Report from Parliament** – Sarah Boyack MSP Scottish Parliament

Allotments Sponsor

13.30 **Reports from associations across Scotland:** Auchmuty Fife, Dundee, Moray,
Shetland, Falkland, Aberdeen, Dunoon

14.30 **New allotment strategies** – Fife, Glasgow

14.45 **Workshops: leaders from relevant organizations and Scottish Allotments**

1. Acquiring land outwith Councils – *Trusts, Leases, rules and agreements*

2. Site maintenance – models of cost and management – *water, skips,*
communal composting, boundary fences, site inspections, maintenance communal areas
and toilets

3. Organic planting for food throughout the year- *produce, orchards, coppices*

4. Local community involvement in supporting worm composting.

15.45 TEA AND NET-WORKING

16.00 FOR SAGS MEMBERS ONLY: A.G.M. Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society

Followed by visit to Dunblane Allotments and get-together in local hostelry.

Note: Attendance at the Conference is free but a donation of £5 for coffee and lunch would be appreciated.