

**Kelvinside Allotments Association: Minutes of 2015 AGM, held on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Approved at 2016 AGM held 29<sup>th</sup> November.**

Present: Trisha Godman; Catriona Renfrew; Anne Dunbar; Marlies Pfeifer; Marilyn Boyd; Patricia Sogbanmu; Bea Withers; P. Rowan; Nigel Johnson; D. Thomson; A. Gifford; C. Steel; R. Jamieson; Lisa and John Curtice; Jonathan Butt; Barbara De La Rue; N. Johnson; Frances Nicoll; Roma Thompson; Anne Houston; Gordon Bonar; Mary Paris; Jackie Heaton; Stuart Gilmour; David Wilson; Norman Godman; J.R. Downie; Heather James; Vicky Wince; April & Paul Bassett; Barbara and Ken Fisher; Kathleen Dunsmore; Kirsty Humhrey; Fiona Takahashi; Rose Kelly; Judy Wilkinson; Diana Ritchie; Margaret Halloran; Fiona McKenzie; Allan Sinclair; Chris Tervit; Pauline Sinclair; Emma and Jean Taylor; Caroline and Stuart Moynes; Mo Clarke; Maggie McLellan; Barry Cooper; John Hancox

Apologies: Deborah Haase; Isobel Boyle, Jennifer Brooks, Anne and Jocelyn Grey, Sue Reeve, Terry Daly; Colin Millar, Esther Weinstein; Dorothy LeGrove; Colin and Margaret Williams.

**Minutes of the last meeting** were accepted as a true record with the amendment that Malcolm Knight was incorrectly named as Malcolm Kennedy in the final lines of the minute.

**President's report** (circulated): this was accepted with the addition of a reminder of not using members' email addresses if inadvertently circulated.

**Treasurer's report** (circulated): Catriona explained the sum accrued from soil conditioner was from two seasons' income. Income from open days has increased making two open days desirable. She proposed retaining a contingency fund of around 2K and outlined planned spend on improving security at Kirklee and developing the NE corner of Julian. Ken Fisher was reappointed as auditor. The accounts were accepted.

**Committee secretary's report** (circulated): No questions

**Membership secretary's report** (circulated): Marilyn drew attention to the members' option of giving up a plot temporarily and being on an internal waiting list to get priority when returning. Thanks given to Marlies for all the technical support and a request for feedback and comments on all aspects of communication.

**Site Maintenance report** (circulated): Maggie thanked Vicky Wince for co-ordinating work on the NE corner at Julian. She indicated that the presence of Japanese Knotweed at Kirklee had been notified to all relevant parties.

**Engagement with members.** Those present felt that two open days per year was a good move and that perhaps the venue for each date (June & September) could alternate. Clear up days tended to be supported by the few usual suspects and the wider membership could be encouraged to attend or, if a list were put on the notice boards, take a task and do it when available. Variation of days, evenings as well as weekends would help. More social events for members would be welcomed and Maggie McLellan was commended for her end of season BBQ. The Newsletters were seen to be a great improvement on previous ones. A suggestion was made that committee meetings could be open as in Dundee. It was agreed that the incoming Committee will work on implementing suggestions.

**Plot inspections.** The papers included information on the small number of plotholders with continual inspection issues and details on warnings and evictions. To put the position in context only two eviction notices were issued in this year and one of those negotiated an alternative plot with the Committee. Only three other members went beyond second warnings. Four plot holders agreed to downsize in discussion with the Committee about issues in maintaining their plots. A small number of plot holders are continually being warned and just addressing issues at the last minute rather than as soon as issues arise. For discussion:-

- Circulated proposals from the Committee to modify that length of the inspection season and the carrying forward of inspections, also included were the GAF model inspection rules applying to all new sites which are considerably stricter.
- John Hancox spoke to his discussion point describing his experience of committee communications on plot inspections and his view that there should be a review of the application of the rules.
- The Committee reminded the meeting of confidentiality issues i.e. the committee cannot discuss specific plot inspection issues with any other members.
- A number of points were made from the floor and the meeting acknowledged the challenges inherent in maintaining allotment sites. **It was agreed that the Committee proposals would be circulated to the whole membership for comment and then**

**Committee would consider those comments and the points made at the AGM and make a decision prior to the start of the next growing season. Action: Committee**

**Resolution 1:** At the 2014 AGM it was agreed to increase the Annual Association Membership Fee for year 2015 to 2016 to £10. In the light of continuing site maintenance costs which are falling more and more on the Association, **this AGM agrees to increase the fee to £12 from year 2016-17. Proposed Catriona Renfrew Seconded Anne Dunbar**

**Resolution 2:** An annual report and discussion on the progress towards achieving a green Sustainable Allotment Site Award (SASA) will be part of the agenda for the AGM every year. **Proposed Judy Wilkinson. Seconded Barbara De La Rue.**

**Both resolutions were accepted by the meeting**

**GAF report** (circulated) no questions

**SAGS report** (circulated) Judy Wilkinson outlined some of the work still to be done following the Community Empowerment Bill campaigning. SAGS is involved in developing guidance material and would welcome volunteers for working groups. Judy can be contacted via the committee on Kelvinside.allotments@gmail.com

**Prizes** This year's prizes were presented to Norman Godman (13) best overall and best Julian; Maggie McLellan (37) 2<sup>nd</sup> Julian; Roma Thompson (?) best half plot; Colin and Margaret Williams (89) best Kirklee; Isobel Boyle (75) 2<sup>nd</sup> Kirklee. Plot 68, Epilepsy Connection was commended for being the runner-up in the Sir Robert Greig Trophy 2015.

**Elections:** Trish Godman, Mo Clarke, Catriona Renfrew, Marilyn Boyd were willing to continue as office bearers. Vicky Wince, Gordon McDowell, Isobel Boyle, and Marlies Pfeifer, are nominated and seconded to continue as committee members. Maggie and Anne are standing down. Fiona Takahashi, Emma Taylor, John Hancox and Stuart Moynes all indicated they would be willing to join the Committee. John Curtice proposed that the Committee should include all four rather than having an election. Trisha thanked Maggie McLellan and Anne Dunbar for their work on the committee.

**AOCB:** Judy Wilkinson spoke about the SASA scheme and how it can be the basis for helping the committee with engagement. A Kirklee member asked for improvements in toilet facilities at Kirklee.

The Chair concluded by thanking Sarah and Malcolm Knight at the SMPC for hosting the AGM.