

21st January 2014 Draft Minutes for the Allotment Liaison Meeting.

Attending: Federation Committee; Wendy Skinner Smith (Chair), Ian Sheppard (Vice-Chair) Richard Barrett (Secretary), John Lardner (Treasurer), Tim Treacher (Competition sub-committee chairman). OCC; Stuart Fitzsimmons (Parks Manager) Ian Haynes (Parks Operations Manager). Richard Hawkes (Corporate Assets Manager) and Councillor Mark Lygo.

Associations; Barns Court – Sid Castle and P Brogan. Bartholomew Road – Richard Barrett. Bartlemas Close (Links) – . Barton Fields - . Cowmead – John Hastings and Faith Phipps. Cripsey Meadow – Wendy Skinner Smith. Cutteslowe - Ian Sheppard. East Ward – Stuart Young. Eden Drive – Tony Harris and Mervyn Hughes. Elder Stubbs - Phil Creme. Fairacres Road – John Piggot. Fairview – Pam Taylor. John Garne Way – David Ruffles. Lower Wolvercote – . Marston Ferry & Blackhall – Gillian Morriss-Kay. Minchery Farm – Clive Bevan. Osney St Thomas – . Ramsay Road – . Risinghurst – Jayne Wright. Rose Hill (Lenthal Road) – Colin Sharp. South Ward - David Allen. Spragglesea Mead - Michael Walker and Tim Treacher. St Clements/Pullens Lane – David O'Connor Marie Power and Philippa Major. Town Furze - Heather Armitage. Thompson Terrace –. Trap Grounds - . Upper Wolvercote – Claire Kelly. Van Diemens Lane – Susanne Marbury. Watlington Road - Roy Leach.(22 assoc)

Apologies for absence none recorded.

Meeting starts 7-30 PM, Stuart Fitzsimmons is the chair.

1/ Matters arising from the minutes – Barns Court complained about the condition of a wall on their Dodgson Road boundary, also that water from car washing had been draining through. SFS replied this had been looked into before and that the wall was private property so beyond his control, a telephone number was exchanged to follow this up. The minutes were then approved.

2/ Allotment Grants – Ian Haynes reported that all those associations who had applied for grants would receive them as they were within the agreed criteria. There were still funds available and his plan was to spend this on signs for allotments. Having read the list of those awarded, Pullens Lane association reported they had applied for a large amount but sectionalised into differing targets but they had had no award? Ian agreed to look into this and award them the surplus funds to them if applicable.

3/ Allotment Charter – The charter was due for review as agreed in 2011. No amendments were agreed other than tweaking the layout and punctuation. There was a query as the whether the wording about tree service and the advice of the Parks suggested tree pruning was free? IH replied it was not but associations could always apply for an external grant for this work.

4/Rent review – Richard Hawkes, Corporate Asset manager reported that the review was progressing. It was slightly behind in consulting councillors but he felt this could be caught up to stay in the overall framework. He was asked for some further rational. RH replied that the review was in accordance with the Asset Management Plan. The Councils assets were in a stable model, and he suggested that there was unlikely to be controversy or surprise in the rent increase. Barns Court, who pay the highest land area rate, called again for a standardised rate for all associations.

This had been an agreed objective of ODFAA since the 2007 review. There was also a query about flooding. RH agreed that allotment land that regularly flooded already had a discounted rate this was already within existing calculations. Town Furze then asked whether other recreational facilities such as sports pitches were subjected to the same increases. SFS explained that such facilities were subject to a different system of annual charges as the land was not being leased out.

5/ Federation Activities and insurance –John Lardner reported on the success of the inaugural Gardeners Question Time. The visits to allotment sites had started as expected with a few participants all of whom felt it was worthwhile to see another site. The next visit was to Barton Fields on the 9th February. JL asked for a show of hands re preference for Saturday or Sunday. Sunday proved the more popular. JL stated the Federation's insurance policies had been renewed and copies sent out to associations. Barn's Court had not received their copy. JL agreed to look into this and send out additional copies if necessary.

7– Tim Treacher reported on the plans for 2014 allotments competition. The proposed ODFAA budget was £225. As usual he proposed this meeting decide whether to hold the competition in 2014 and agree the budget so that papers could be sent out with AGM material for the April meetings. There were **20 for** the proposal, **1 against** and **5 abstentions**. Consequently ODFAA will again support the 2014 competition.

AOB WSS made an appeal for members to join the Federation committee which meets several weeks before Liaison meetings at 8-30 AM in the Town Hall.

A question was asked to whether compost was being delivered? SFS replied that the tractor driver Dixie was responsible for this along with his other work. Some deliveries had not been possible due to flooding.

8-05 PM OCC officers left and the meeting went into small groups for training. The area agreed was 'How to tackle lack of cultivation/Site expectations re plot cultivations.' Wendy had prepared a summary sheet for members to record their agreed conclusions. Members had been asked to bring any relevant paperwork and or experience. We split into groups so that different sites worked together. At the end of the session members reported they found this useful. One member wanted more direct information. Most reported they contributed and listened more effectively in the small group

John Lardner agreed to summarise the results sheets. A summary is attached. The meeting ended at 8.40.