

Minutes GGA Meeting 19/02/2017

Start time 11.30am

Present: Gordon Taylor, Sarah George, Anthea Schmid, Joe Ambrasano, Alan Leconte, Ron Drinkwater, Karen Bell, Pete Fitzgerald.

Apologies for absence: Raymond Bradley, Chris Rowsome, Diane Rowsome.
(Peter Fitzgerald acting as scribe in Diane's absence).

1) Dates for meetings

Gordon discussed need to set dates for meetings. 5 committee members is minimum. Karen read out constitution.

Gordon has done some flyers for May plant sale. Sun 14th May. Gordon asked if date was ok.

Gordon will send out date of meeting 1 month before and will send out all meeting dates.

Gordon suggested future meetings in Robin Hood Pub (Collingwood Rd). Sarah said kids OK in Robin Hood until 9pm. This will free up Sundays during the growing period. Tuesdays and Thursdays discussed as potential days. Karen also said this will free up the shop on Sundays for potential customers-who might be put off if they see a committee meeting in progress on a Sunday morning.

2) Membership

Gordon asked do we need it? To which Karen replied that we need it in place to be able to sell on Sundays.

Ron said whoever is on the till must push membership. Anthea said some old members used to pay £1.50 but now majority are paying £2.50.

Karen is looking into incentives for members. Looking at flash sales on products for members and selling potatoes at different rates for members and non-members next year.

Gordon raised suggestion of a "Kids Club" Anthea stated its not simple due to DBS checks etc. Karen has a simple safeguarding policy ready to go, but can change it if needed – to be discussed in future meeting.

Gordon says to go out and find how other Allotments are encouraging people in. Anthea said bonfire and Summer BBQ were very popular. Alan raised that people are put off due to no toilet facilities. Anthea said we may be able to incorporate a toilet with a lottery grant.

3) Security

Gordon said about his batteries being stolen. He got police down. Anthea said all thefts need to be raised with police by the victim.

If lots of thefts are reported then a major crimes number will be issued.

Police will issue 'smart water' April and May

Gordon says he has now got 4 cameras and floodlights. CCTV £25 Floodlights £10, Gordon to share info. Solar panel set up £70. Cameras pointing at cameras.

Pete raised issue of CCTV and kids at events.

Anthea said spikes in gates not allowed as per council.

Anthea raised issue of gates being left open.

Gordon wants professional metal signage for CCTV.

Perits Field users will not come to shop unless pedestrian gate is open. Sarah said she will not have the gate left open unless someone sits on the gate, or she gets an indemnity to thefts from her plot.

Gordon said need clear and signed path from gate to shop.

Suggested a separate event for security, where we can mark tools for members with UV, and we can arrange Police to be present.

4) Targets

Gordon suggested targets for next year for shop and membership.

Karen wants flash sales and rates for members/non-members.

Sarah said about Facebook posts – liking and sharing

Gordon said to do posters + leaflets about liking us on Facebook.

Anthea to share leaflets with other allotments that have no shop – this will draw customers hopefully to our shop.

Gordon suggested that when we have meetings in the pub we invite reps from other as sites.

Gordon suggested target to increase members. Anthe suggested double last year.

Gordon discussed current membership cards. Possibly make them look better.

Anthea suggested some items only for members.

Gordon said lots of signage required i.e. 'MEMBERS ONLY COMPOST'

5) Potato Fest

Gordon and Sarah to buy Potatoes for Jackets and cook them

Anthea and Karen to buy rest of shopping

Karen said fillings to be Tuna Mayo, Cheese and Baked Beans.

Prices £1.50 plain, £2 with 1 filling and £2.50 with 2 fillings.

Tea and coffee price increase to 60p – cup size is larger.

Gordon to advertise on 'what's on in Sutton' Anthea to advertise on 'next door' websites.

Event to be held by shop, less fuss, all kit at shop, weather problems.

10th Sept for veg show

Gordon suggested a 'WINE EVENING' in summer. Anthea suggested July August. Gordon suggested beginning of June so we can have a second one if popular.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Raymond's Peter to measure up for new tables outside shop that fold up and can be padlocked.

Anthea suggested a post by corner of shop to stop damage by cars reversing.

Work party to paint shop

Electric board padlock has been cut.

Plant Fair, we need to ask people to grow a variety of produce. Gordon to send list to Karen to email out to plot holders.

Karen suggested encourage Nick and Louise to come to planning meeting for plant sale.

Anthea said Raymond had an email from Croydon re new stakes. All agreed to purchase some.

Meeting ended 12.40pm