

## GANDER GREEN LANE ALLOTMENTS

### Minutes – Extra Ordinary Meeting 28-01-18

A signing in sheet was passed round at the meeting. The meeting was attended by 26 plot holders – details can be obtained from the Secretary.

#### **1. Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chairman, Gordon, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He explained the purpose of this meeting is to get more people involved in events and work parties and get the allotment site improved for everyone. It is also the meeting where the committee members are elected for the forthcoming year. As with all the allotment meetings, it is a forum where plot holders can discuss any problems or issues they may have on site and, hopefully, find solutions.

Gordon went on to explain that the profits from the shop and events (which were very successful last year) are used mainly to improve and maintain the roads around the site. We had a big push 2 years ago to improve these but things have slowed down this year. There has also been an increase in crime on the site.

#### **2. Feedback from Plot holders**

Roy complained that he had received letters from the council about non cultivation of his plot and these were upsetting for his wife. He felt that someone should have spoken to him before informing the council. There was some discussion. Roy felt that he had been given the notice unfairly as he grows plants not usually grown in this country and which could be unfamiliar to people and mistaken for weeds. Whilst this is understood, the Site Representative, Anthea, explained that the rules are that a percentage of a plot has to be worked and, if not, the council (now IdVerde) has to be informed. The plot holder will then receive a Non Cultivation Notice, which gives them a set time in which to improve their plot and also allows a chance to explain why the plot isn't being worked (e.g. illness) or, as in Roy's case, that it is being worked, but in a different way. It was agreed that it would be very difficult for the Site Rep to meet with every plot holder before an NCO is issued.

Some plot holders felt that the communication about meetings, events etc. could be improved. Not all plot holders have email accounts and this is the main communication method used by IdVerde and the committee. IdVerde send all invoices etc. by email and some plot holders had not paid their rent as they were not informed. After some discussion it was agreed that the committee could put up more notice boards around the site and one should definitely be by the trading hut. Louise offered to print out all Emails sent by the committee and IdVerde and put these on the notice boards.

Some plots are suffering from flooding in the bad weather. In particular on the North side. There was a discussion on how drainage could be improved. Anthea said she would contact IdVerde to see if something could be done and it was agreed to cost up the provision of new grating to help with ditch flooding.

Some plot holders complained that people were parking in the little lanes around the site and it was difficult to get past with a wheelbarrow without damaging the cars. Anthea said she had spoken to plot holders about this and that she would arrange for notices to be sent out regarding parking. She also reminded everyone that the paths around plots are plot holders' responsibility to maintain and keep clear.

A plot holder would like to keep bees on the allotment and asked if this would be acceptable. The plot holder confirmed she had completed all the relevant training and will comply with all regulations and get signed documents from neighbouring plot holders to say they agree. A vote was held at the meeting and was unanimous in favour, providing the above stipulations were met.

Some plot holders complained about fly tipping and crime (mainly theft) on the site. After some discussion it was agreed that video cameras would be put up and monitored.

### **3. Ideas, Work Parties and Dates for Future Meetings and Events**

It was agreed that work parties are needed to improve the roadways (hard core to be laid) and paths (woodchip). Also some plot holders at the meeting said they would like the area outside the trading hut to be improved – to provide three large bins for manure, wood chip and leaf & grass. A vote was held at the meeting to decide if this should go ahead and was passed unanimously in favour.

Volunteers are desperately needed in order for these improvements to be implemented – emails will be sent out and posters put up with the dates and a signing up sheet will be in the trading hut.

The following dates for future events and meetings were agreed:

General Committee Meeting – **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – 11.00am** to discuss:  
**Potato Festival – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

General Committee Meeting – **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – 11.00am** to discuss:  
**Plant Sale – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

General Committee Meeting – **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018 – 11.00am** to discuss:  
**BBQ – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018**

General Committee Meeting – **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018 – 11.00am** to discuss:  
**Veg Show – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

General Committee Meeting – **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – 11.00am** to discuss:  
**Bon Fire Night – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018 11.00 AM**

#### 4. IdVerde and the future of the allotment

There is a meeting being held by IdVerde on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am at the Salvation Army Meeting Hall. All members are encouraged to attend if possible.

#### 5. Election of Officers of the Association - 2018

Before the election of officers of the Association, a proposal to amend the constitution – deletion of clause 11 (a) was discussed. A vote was held and it was agreed unanimously to remove this clause.

*In accordance with the constitution the Officers of the Association shall be a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Trading Secretary. Other officers may be elected, if considered appropriate by a General Meeting.*

The following 3 people were voted in unanimously as officers of the association:

*Chair – Anthea Schmid*

*Secretary – Diane Rowsome*

*Treasurer – Raymond Bradley*

Other officers were elected as follows:

*Site Representative – Anthea Schmid*

*Vice Chairman – Chris Rowsome*

*Trading Secretary – Karen Fitzgerald*

Other agreed General Committee members are:

*Alan LeConte*

*Joe Ambrosano*

*Ron Drinkwater*

*Steve Dyason*

*Lisa Kennett*

*Louise*

The meeting closed at 12.45pm.

#### **Please note the following actions from this meeting:**

**Louise** -print out all Emails sent by the committee and IdVerde and put on the notice boards.

**Anthea** - contact IdVerde re flooding

**Raymond** - cost up the provision of new grating

**Anthea** – send out notices regarding considerate parking on site

**Anthea** - video cameras to be put up and monitored.

**Karen and Anthea** - emails to be sent out and posters put up with the dates for work parties and a signing up sheet to be in the trading hut.