

barnet allotment federation

Minutes of the meeting of the Federation Monday 15th June 2015

There were 26 people present representing 19 Societies

- 1 Apologies for absence: Jean Carr, Isobel Excel; Tom Thorne, Brook Farm.
- 2 Approval of the minutes of the meeting on May 18 2015 – these were approved.
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes not included elsewhere on the agenda: None.
- 4 Report on meeting with Greenspaces held on June 11 2015: Richard reported on the meeting which was – like previous meetings - rather constructive. A summary of the meeting was included in a supplement to Notes and News that was circulated with the papers for the meeting. Most jobs on societies' schedules have now been done – fencing, removal of asbestos, water upgrades. Tarmac works remain a problem, but Barnet have now appointed a new contractor. As for tree works, the jobs have been handed out and paid for but they haven't been finished on some sites; Barnet are to meet the contractors on the sites. Water upgrades have all been completed and are now being inspected. Property issues are going rather more slowly, but some of them have been accomplished successfully.

All Societies are reminded that Annual Returns to the Council are due the end of this month. Any change of trustee should be notified on this form and the Federation is checking whether and how changes of trustee need to be notified to the Land Registry.

Graham Clark from Woodhouse asked whether the works were all being funded by LBB. Richard re-assured him that anything in the schedule of condition would be done free of charge to Societies. Graham suggested that the previous Chairman of Woodhouse might be able to help with land registry issues.

Stella Winskell asked whether we are allowed to know who the contractors were. Richard said anyone was at liberty to ask.

A couple of people reported some inadequate plumbing work. Richard said that the inspection should bring up any problems.

- 5 Report from the committee. Hushang drew everyone's attention to the News and Notes. Some societies have not yet sent in their returns for 2012-3; he emphasised how important it was to do this, particularly to keep contact details accurate.

Hushang and Richard both emphasised the value of entering the site and plot competition, saying that it helps to generate some civic pride and interest. Stella encouraged Societies to enter and also to get their entry forms in on time. She reminded everyone of the Ted Green memorial Award for a community project.

Returns for the annual Barnet Federation survey are still outstanding from a few societies, and some have not provided financial information. Hushang emphasised the confidentiality of this information.

Gill talked about the revamping of the workshop programme and the monthly meetings. We would like to find out what everyone wants from these meetings, so Gill will send everyone a questionnaire asking for ideas. She was sorry that there hasn't been much engagement between sites, not much sharing of information and resources. When we

hear back from everyone we will discuss it at the next meeting in July. Ideas could be emailed to her in advance.

In Jean's absence, there was no financial report, but there are not many subscriptions outstanding.

Website: we have had to find someone else to re-vamp the website.

6 News and comments from the societies:

Woodhouse: had a small encroachment, but the builders have provided a composting toilet and offered to level a plot for communal use.

Wise Lane: encroachment - someone was storing stuff on land which belonged to them. The council have now acted and given him seven days to clear his stuff and will be clearing the land. This will give Wise Lane 6/7 new plots in an arable state.

Halliwick has problems with their lease and some land that may still be statutory allotment land: Hushang suggested that they discuss this with Richard. Halliwick also reported a break-in. There was a suggestion from Clifford Road asking whether the Federation could inform other societies detailing what has been stolen in case it is offered for re-sale. Hushang said that the Committee would discuss this.

Cat Hill reported that 2 years ago they suffered a major break-in, losing £4.5k of gear. Despite marking their stuff with their postcode, they had never heard anything. Hushang offered to discuss the matter of how to avoid theft in committee. Taking a record of serial numbers would be useful.

7 Any other business: Richard asked societies whether they offered remuneration and/or free plots to any of their officers. There were three responses saying that they did. One of them offered free use of equipment.

8 Workshop

Member communications

Convenors : Kirstie Burgin, Gill Saunders