**Glasgow Allotments Forum**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 7th November 2019**

In attendance:

Jenny Reeves (Springburn), July Wilkinson (Julian Avenue), Iain Sutherland (Mansewood), Scott Ramsay (Sir John Stirling Maxwell), Patricia Peters (South-West Allotments), William Somerville (Beechwood), Barbara De La Rue (Kelvinside), Liz Mackinlay (New Victoria Gardens), Richard Sharp (Victoria Park)

Apologies: Jan MacDonald, Delia Henry, Doreen Grainger, Christine Kuhn

1. The minutes of last year’s meeting were approved
2. **Annual Report**

**a) Events Potato Day and the Celebration of Allotments** went well and we raised roughly the same amount of money as last year. Attendance was down at the Celebration because it was held on the Saturday of the October Weekend. **Action: Jan/Iain to book St. Margaret’s early for October 3rd 2020**

**b) Awards:** there was a good range of entries for the new plotholder awards, and some very impressive plots. Bill Peebles from the Incorporation of Gardeners has invited members to Trades House, and it is hoped to take up the invitation in January/ February 2020. It will feature on the GAF Facebook page. There was no competition for the Allotment Development Awards (ADAs) but presentations were made for each of the 3 areas of the city. A procedure for the Blooming Marvellous awards is required **Action: Iain & Jenny**. The ADAs will be offered again in 2020. Committee members will canvas associations to apply.

1. **New plotholders’ handbook**: the meeting of 6th November with Glasgow City Council about the handbook was discussed. Richard will attend the next meeting on 13th November and Jan the subsequent two meetings. The handbook which is in development is comprehensive, and the final draft will be circulated to GAF amongst others before its intended publication on the GCC website in April 2020. GCC have asked for ‘top tips’ from allotment holders to be included in the handbook. **Action Richard and Jan**
2. **Communications meeting with GCC**: Jenny spoke about the meeting with Rachel Smith of GCC on 5th July and the issues with communications between GCC and GAF. There is a lack of information provided by GCC to allotment sites and the bi-monthly reports from GCC are not very informative. Greater transparency about finance and resources is required.
3. There have been no published ‘mechanisms of notice’ since 1959. An electronic system for recording people on allotments’ waiting lists is likely to be proposed by GCC. We discussed the need for a scheme of delegation to establish exactly what the responsibilities are of the GCC as landlord and of the allotment associations, as representatives of the plotholders. GAF needs to improve the mutual knowledge and understanding of member sites in order to contribute to plans for the future which GCC’s Neighbourhoods and Sustainability department are due to consult upon next year. **Action: Jenny & Richard, Denis Barrett & Judy, Derek Livesey & Ian McCracken** Three meetings, one in each area of the City are planned for the New Year to gather this information. The results will be reported at our bi-monthly meeting on March 5th 2020.
4. **Treasurer’s report**: there is currently £5328.14 in the account. There is sufficient to cover the ADAs for next year.
5. **Natural Environment Officer’s report**: this raises the issue of pest control (wasps and rats), which was discussed. It was stated at the meeting that wasps’ nests are not necessarily a problem and wasps can be beneficial. It was decided to contact the NE Officer to ask him about this issue. Separately, an FOI request to ask for the job description of the NE Officer should be made **Action: Richard**
6. **Elections**: the following appointments were made, or officers re-elected:
* Jenny Reeves – Chair
* Delia Henry – Vice Chair
* Judy Wilkinson – Secretary
* Iain Sutherland – Treasurer
* Richard Sharp – Minute Secretary
* Sarah Henry – New Plotholders’ Awards
* Jenny/ Iain – ADAs
* Iain – Blooming Marvellous Awards
* Jenny/ Scott Ramsay – GAF website
* Iain – Facebook page
* Christine – Instagram
* Judy – representative on Grow Your Own Working Group
* Liz – Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) representative
1. **Topics for next year’s meetings**: Jenny will put these into a calendar on the website. Suggested topics are preparation for a new season – preparation of beds, seed planting, rearing young plants etc. in January, the review of allotment meetings to be discussed in March, and the ‘No Dig’ system, the value of Wasps and other insects and water harvesting for later in the year. **Action: Committee members to be assigned to organising topics.**
2. **COP 26**: GAF have been invited to send delegates to the meeting of Scottish NGOs on the climate change conference which is taking place in Glasgow in November 2020, at 17.30 at the Pearce Institute in Govan on 12th November. Iain, Scott, Christine and Richard will attend.
3. Connecting Nature – new GCC team put in place in the Planning Department are running a workshop for interested parties in the Canal Ward. Jenny will be attending at Lambhill Stables on 13th November.
4. **AOB**: There is a SAGs meeting at 14.30 on 23rd November at the Theosophical Society in St George’s Cross. It is requested that GAF send two members to this event. **Action: Liz & Scott**