

## LADAS Committee Meeting Minutes

7 pm Monday 17 August 2015

Suzanne's house

No	Agenda	Action
1	<p><b>Attendance</b> - Sarah Mattingly, Margaret Mundie, Ian Harkness, Suzanne Ralston, Paul and Jean Taylor, Fenella Duncan, Val Corry, Neil and Alison Valentine</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> - none</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of 15 June 2015</b> – Approved, no amendments.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters arising</b> –</p> <p><b>Item 6</b> – Sarah has contacted the following organisations but has had no response so far - Young Horts, Capability Scotland, Bield Housing. Val has contacted RHS – no grants available in this area; will pursue.</p> <p><b>Item 7</b> – Various ploholders have now addressed problems subsequent to May plot inspections No need to advertise an open day as all plots taken. Plans are in hand for an article in the Black Bitch Plot 51b Bobby Parsons (sign writer) has made a new site sign – lovely! A couple of very untidy plots were discussed; plot holders to be contacted.</p> <p><b>Item 8</b> – various people have been contacted to judge competitions - staff at Dougal Phillips/Windeford Farm and all no response; Mark Thirgood will judge competitions and David Sinclair will be best plot judge. Very good report from Paul and Ian re SAGS conference.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Val</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sarah</p>
4	<p><b>Chairman's report</b> –</p> <p><b>Resurgence of rabbits</b> – the rifle man was on site one night and shot four rabbits. He will come out again (at a fee of £50 per night) – rabbits are jumping the fence but mid-summer is not good time to catch them. Sarah will email members to remind them to check their section of fence. There's been a report of rabbits under shed – chicken wire and cutters still in hut for general use.</p> <p><b>Website</b> – 'contact us' facility not working; site not very informative or easy to change. Sarah to ask Transition Linlithgow/Alan Brown who looks after their website. Contact name and email to be added rather than contact through the site.</p> <p><b>EH49</b> – a community based shop selling local food, have asked if we'd like to be involved in supplying for veggie boxes; or we could take a table on Friday afternoon to sell surplus veg. However this is quite a commitment and will need to be manned and is not good time - will leave this for the moment and see what transpires. Sarah is meeting with Hopetoun farm shop manager at the end of this week. Maybe Hopetoun should be our priority then possibly EH49. Taste offering vouchers for those delivering surplus – to investigate further.</p> <p><b>Seed swap</b> – A plot holder has suggested a seed swap might be good idea; committee felt seeds would need to be in their original packs for date info. Could we organise a specific event? Space in hut? Burgh Beautiful do it in spring and at Potato Day. Seeds are so cheap it's possibly not worth doing. We decided that when organising Kings Seeds order we remind members they can put surplus seeds in the hut and money in the pot.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sarah</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sarah</p>

5	<p><b>Treasurer's report –</b>  Bank balance £2326.38  Plus rent money for 2 plots and odds = £2459.38, less £164 to go to Lesley Nock = £2295  £50 for rabbit man still to come off  All monies up to date</p>	
6	<p><b>Membership update –</b>  Plot 58 now let and tree gone!  Untidy plots: Neil will offer to strim for a small fee say £20 per plot.  Kenneth Allen is available for gardening work.</p>	Neil
7	<p><b>Survey results –</b>  Sarah has collated results, thanks to Val for help in setting it up.  Total of 31/32 answered the survey, this evidence can be used for future grant applications.  Comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Health benefits more important than veg growing  Fences between plots? Windbreaks with wire backing allowed within rules</li> <li>2 Not surprising result; good that committee is appreciated, and also bulk deliveries</li> <li>3 Good that security is not an issue. Pests and weedy empty plots main issues. Some weeds have to be tolerated as site is in the countryside. The shared paths, better kept on left than right side of main path; plot holders need to look after their own paths; possible path along canal side? Big job for future. If membrane/bark supplied would members be willing to work with neighbours to form proper paths? – Sarah to send email. Weed killer necessary on main path though some members very against its use. Hoses can be used to top up water butts and possibly at times when few people on site – restrictions brought in to prevent over-use of taps when others want them.</li> <li>4 Pests main drawback – much discussion about rabbit fencing and how to raise money for it, donations/£50 per plot/fund raising project/cloud funding/fence fund/ just giving web site? Perhaps we should throw this open to everyone and get response and comments; possibly some of the existing funds could go towards it, say £1000?</li> <li>5 Security of tenure concern – as secure as we can be with landlord. Pests – see 4. Empty plots with weeds – Paul to consider giving help; most people don't realise how much time is involved keeping an allotment – little and often.</li> <li>6 Main concern is about fence – see 4. Vehicle access to west doesn't affect many and this would not be an easy option.</li> <li>7 Huge desire for learning – Margaret to hold a workshop; informal, use main hut or on allotment; tea and talk/gardeners question time with tea and cake, possibly Saturday afternoon in September with small charge - £5? Possibly other workshops – willow weaving (Suzanne to investigate), planting veg and after care. Other knowledgeable members may be willing to give talks/demos too.</li> <li>8 Lottery/grant application is tricky as we don't have a clear proposal; recipe book a possibility, no copyright issues; Sarah</li> </ol>	<p>Sarah</p> <p>Paul</p> <p>Margaret</p> <p>Suzanne</p>

	<p>supplied some costs for producing printed material but quite expensive so not cost effective, maybe a calendar would be better? More thought required.</p> <p>Sarah to collate results and produce a document without the comments but with committee responses.</p>	tbc
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Plans for Harvest Celebration (23 August) –</b>  12-2pm, eat at 1pm  Judges at 11 - David Sinclair plot judge to finish by 1.30.  Margaret to organise burgers (half cooked beforehand).  Set up from 11 – gazebo, tables in hut for comps, Kirsty making certificates,  Sarah organised children/judges prizes,  Cups to be brought along on day  Kids to chalk on outside hut walls/paving slabs rather than paint (messy!)  Kirsty to bring Splat the Rat  Margaret to bring her boules  Food – Margaret burgers 23 meat and 3 veggies, relishes  Sarah to do drinks for judges, rolls, some salads, napkins, cups.  Sarah to remind members of event and times. Plenty tables and bunting.</p>	<p>Margaret  All  Sarah</p> <p>Margaret  Sarah</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Date and volunteers for October plot inspection</b>  Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October Val, Ian and Sarah at 10.30</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Dates for future meetings</b>  12 October 7pm  7 December, venue to be confirmed</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Venue for next meeting (12 October)</b>  Ian's house</p>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b>AOB</b>  Ian brought soil improving samples from SAGS conference and will leave in the hut for members to try. Garden Solutions seem to be the best and most cost effective way to order compost etc.  Thanks to Suzanne for drinks and home baking.</p>	