

Pretoria Road Allotment Society

Minutes of the committee meeting held at the allotment site on Sunday 25th March 2018

Those present:- Mike Stinchcomb – Vice-Chairman
 Roger Fussell - Secretary
 Norman Bradford
 Kelly Morgan-Ramseyer
 Terry Wall
 Ray Perthshire

Apologies for absence: Les Brooks, Derek Howell, Diana Sidwell

The vice-chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The minutes from our last meeting (7th January 2018) were adopted and signed off by the chairman.

Item one. From Mike: Can we please put together a small team to put up the new gravel boards on the gazebo? After a short discussion, during which Mike said that two people could manage the job, Ray Perthshire volunteered and it was agreed that he and Mike would carry out the work on Saturday 31st March.

Item Two. From Roger: Further to our previous discussions regarding offering members a tool storage container, I have come to the conclusion that the proposed plastic containers do not represent value for money and would not be the right thing to offer to our members. There have been a number of adverse reviews online regarding construction, durability and reliability. Kelly has also had a bad experience with these type of containers. We discussed this matter and concluded that if members want a storage container, then they should decide on the type and buy it individually.

Item Three. From Kelly: Can we discuss the proposed Easter Fun Day? After much discussion, the committee concluded that this idea should be cancelled, as attendance was expected to be poor anyway and it would involve the committee and volunteers in extra work and expense which would probably not be recouped.

Item Four. From Darren: Can we discuss what to do about home-made structures on site? My neighbor on plot 55a, has made a greenhouse from wood and basic plastic sheeting. This has broken up during the winter storms and is now contaminating my plot and is in danger of doing the same to other nearby plots.

After a short discussion, Roger explained that it is policy not to allow home-made structures of this type and that we do not allow the use of standard plastic sheeting for any purpose on site, as it does break down and will contaminate soil etc. The plot holder in question will be written to and told to remove the greenhouse from the site. That plot holder will also be informed that should they wish to have a polytunnel or greenhouse, they must use a commercially produced one and it must comply with the height restrictions imposed by PTC.

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Roger made special mention of the help and assistance that had recently been forthcoming from Geoff Lloyd and Brian Jones. Geoff came to our aid after the recent spell of bad weather, when it was discovered that we had three water leaks (Two in the ladies toilet and one in the Kitchen). Geoff, assisted by Brian, repaired the leaks and also fitted a new cold water tap in the ladies toilet, as the old one was no longer serviceable. In addition to this, Brian Jones did sterling work in assisting with the removal of accumulated rubbish and general junk from the kitchen/shed area.

Neither of these chaps are committee members, yet they went above and beyond what could reasonably be expected. **Our sincere and grateful thanks to you both gentlemen.**

The matter of the green waste site was also raised. Due to members not depositing their green waste properly and scattering it around the base of the site, the site is getting bigger and bigger and on one side, threatens to overflow onto a plot! Also, several plastic bins have been left near the site and these have been filled with all manner of rubbish which has no business there. This includes old compost bags, unwanted plastic pots and even wine bottles. This is just pure laziness and must stop. We are to request that PTC removes these bins and uses one of its machines to pile the green waste up properly. We will put a notice on our website to the effect that members must take the trouble to pile their waste onto the existing pile and NOT deposit it around the base. All other waste apart from wood waste, must be taken off site and disposed of properly and not dumped on site. Any member seen doing this will be spoken to and if he or she persists, they will be referred to the committee for further action, which could include withdrawal of the right to renew membership in September.

It was noted that Darren was again absent and had not given any specific indication as to why.

On that note, the meeting was closed.