**MARCH**

**Craigentinny Plotholders’ Meeting MINUTES**

**Saturday 5th March 2022at 11.00**

**Present: Mike A (chair), Katie, Norma, Rod, Kirsten, Mike and B**

**Apologies: John McK, John M, Ian and Katy, Joan P, Elspeth, George**

1. All very best wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to George and Pat. Mike A agreed to take the minutes.
2. **Arrangements for Tom’s memorial tree.** Katie has the tree safely at work, and it was agreed that she would make inquiries among a number of people to try to ensure that they at least could manage a date for the formal planting. She reported that John M has in hand a memorial stone. She was very pleased to receive the £45 of personal donations, which Mike A handed over in Elspeth’s absence, and expressed warm thanks to those who had contributed.
3. **Asbestos.** A slab of corrugated apparent asbestos had been found last month blown from a derelict shed roof onto one of the paths. Elspeth had contacted Ian W, who had removed the now broken pieces and temporarily put them in the tool shed. It was agreed to ask Ian to try to speed up the arrangements for getting a contractor to remove the pieces. Meantime, if anyone needs to go into the shed, it was suggested that it would be best to leave the door open for several minutes before going in, maybe wear a mask, and make every effort to disturb the asbestos as little as possible.
4. **Treasurer’s Report.** Elspeth had circulated her Report with the figures up to 1st March. This showed a current bank account of £428.06. It was agreed that this allowed us to explore further possible expenditure on various items (see below).
5. **Garden trolley.** News of the pending arrival of the new trolley was warmly received and thanks expressed to John McK for organising it. The question of where it should be kept was discussed, it being agreed that to leave it unlocked by the gate was too big a risk. It was therefore agreed that, pending any further arrangements, it should be kept in the communal shed (there is no room at present in the tool shed because of the asbestos). In the longer run, another option would be to ask Ian W if he could supply a padlock compatible with our existing keys, and a suitable chain, so that it might, subject to further discussion, be possible to chain and lock it to one of the uprights of the noticeboard.
6. **Communal Bins.** The change in collection arrangements was noted: now once a week on a **Saturday** (so they need to go out on Fridays). Concern was also expressed about heavy material being put into these bins, on one occasion recently, making it impossible for one person to move a bin. We are reminded that pieces of slab and concrete, stones and soil and also anything more than small pieces of wood should not be placed in these bins, which are intended for lightweight inorganic material only. The possibility of creating, maybe on the communal plot, a community compost arrangement for items too large to be composted on our own sites was left to a future meeting.
7. **Compost delivery.** Very warm thanks were expressed to George for the very large amount of work that he had put into fixing and then organising the unloading and labelling of this year’s delivery.
8. **Rats and foxes.** Concern was expressed that yet another young fox with an injured leg had been on our site in early February, and that dogs may be being set to chase foxes on the golf course, this being responsible for three similarly injured animals in the last few months. Meantime, only one rat having been reported recently, it was agreed that CEC should be asked to continue not putting down rat poison on our site, in the hope that any rat issues may still be controllable by foxes.
9. **John M’s 50th allotment year.** It was agreed to ask George to liaise with John over timing and arrangements for recognising this.
10. **Strimming.** Following on for several early discussions, Rod agreed to investigate and price a possible double battery quite powerful strimmer. Meantime, the grass on the communal plot already being too long to mow or cut effectively with a small strimmer, it was agreed to follow-up an earlier idea and seek to pay someone who would give the whole area a thorough strim at some point in April. Hopefully thereafter in 2022, the mower and/or smaller strimmers might keep the grass under a measure of control. It was also agreed to ask Ian W whether he knew anyone who might be hired for this purpose.
11. **Solar power.**The possibility of erecting a solar panel on the roof of the tool shed to recharge strimmer batteries had been discussed several times last year. Mike (of Mike and B), who has professional expertise in this area, agreed to provide some notes on a possible solar panel arrangement and associated charging point, which could also be available for other charging than just strimmers. The suggested costs may well be such that we could well afford them this year.
12. **Repairs to the Communal Shed.** Mike (of Mike and B) agreed to investigate repair to the slats outside the shed door.
13. **Facebook page.** Joan P having sent apologies, held over to next meeting.
14. **AOB.** Katie raised the continuing issues of the trees in the wood beyond the bottom (south) end of the site. These are now so tall that they are causing serious shading issues for plots in that part of our site (and are also potentially a cause of future windblown damage). It was agreed that Ian W be asked to seek to have a block of the trees closest to the fence removed, or at least significantly trimmed.
15. **Date of next meeting.** Agreed for 2nd April at 11.00.

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