

Elm Village Community Garden Society

Minutes of the meeting on Saturday 29th of January 2011

Present: Karen Rogers (chair), Peter McGinty (secretary), Erica, Julia, Rick, Ani, Manos, Francis, Loretta, Suni, Shirley, Anuree, Michael.

Apologies: Mike Jackson, Deedee, Lucy, Clare, Helene.

Membership and renewals for 2011

Memberships, new and old, will run from January to December.

Subscriptions for 2011 will be collected over the next few weeks with an absolute cut-off for payment for those desiring to **retain** their allotment plots of 28th February 2011.

Peter will contact all existing members, especially plot-holders, over the next few weeks to determine if they are going to continue their membership in 2011 and, if so, collect their subscriptions.

Peter stated that over the past few months he had been contacted by several households who would like to garden an allotment plot and/or the greenhouse. As soon as Peter had contacted all existing allotment plot-holders and determined whether they would be retaining their plot for 2011, he would allocate vacant plots to those who had expressed an interest, and collect their subscriptions.

Accounts for 2010

The secretary presented the accounts for 2010 which showed a surplus of £173 which was judged appropriate as this yearly surplus will have to be used to maintain the greenhouse and the rest of the gardening infrastructure when it begins to need repair in a few years time.

Subscriptions for 2011

It was agreed that these would be kept the same as last year.

It was agreed that subscriptions for the garden society would be kept the same as four 2010 that is:

- membership £5 per person (and 'seedling' membership £1)
- greenhouse use £10 per household
- allotment plot £20 per plot

Manure for Allotment Plots and Greenhouse

To maintain the fertility of the soil the garden society will annually order one big-bag (1m³) of organic manure for delivery to Elm Village and application to the allotment plots and greenhouse.

Julia mentioned that she might have a contact at a local stables and she will get contact and supply details asap. Depending on prices and supply details we will then place an order either them or with Thompson's of Enfield (a commercial garden supplier). Once the delivery details are confirmed Peter will send out an email as we'll need a few able-bodied helpers and a wheelbarrow to move it to where it's needed.

Garden Centre Education Fund

Over the course of 2010 the garden centre provided a number of goods and services to the society including hoses, fittings, compost, various plants, daily (and sometimes twice daily) watering of the greenhouse, general maintenance, organic and biological pest control, advice, and more. It was decided the society will make a £100 donation to the garden centre social education fund in recognition of the benefits and goods supplied.

Water Bill

The exact charge is still not certain but an allowance for an estimated charge (based on meter readings) has been made in the 2010 accounts that should be adequate.

It had been hoped to have agreed the exact charge by now but difficulties in getting information about charges and allowances from Thames Water had delayed things. The secretary and Places for People and the Garden Centre hope to have this settled in the next few weeks, well in time for the next meeting.

Camden in Bloom

We discussed whether we should put in a joint entry for the 2011 Camden in Bloom competition. We agreed this was probably a good idea and Francis agreed to find out what she could from the council and communicate this at the next meeting.

Garden Society "Rules of Use"

After extensive consultation with Elm Village residents and Places for People, version 1.5 of the rules of use was adopted on 8th May last year and is permanently available on the EVTRA website (www.evtra.org.uk). At the same meeting on 8th May 2010 it was also agreed that the rules would be reviewed after one year,

amended as necessary, and republished in 2011.

These rules apply to all users of the 'green spaces' within Elm Village which by definition includes all garden society members.

The secretary asked all garden society members to review the rules and e-mail any suggestions for improvements to him over the course of the next few weeks. How he will then produce an updated copy for presentation at the next meeting for discussion and agreement as the rules of use for 2011 and future years.

North Canal Site Improvements

Planning approval has been granted for improvements to the North Canal site and full details are available on Camden's planning department website and Peter will arrange for a copy of the architects plans to be posted on the EVTRA website.

Places for People are in the process of selecting a contractor and as soon as dates for the work have been agreed the secretary will publish these.

Peter will notify residents of progress.

AOB

No significant items were raised.

Date of Next Meeting = 5th March 2011.

Proposed dates for 2011 meetings: 29 Jan, **5 Mar**, 2 Apr, 7 May, 11 Jun, 2 Jul