

Cromarty Allotments and Gardens Society

January 15th, 2014 at 4 Barkly Street, Cromarty at 7.00pm

1. Apologies for absence: - Craig Fraser, Vanessa Halhead, Rosie Newman.

Present: Colin Dunn, John Wood, Helen Elliot, John Keiller, Ross Couper, Jane Clunas, Maggie Dove, Loren Scott-Lodge.

2. Minutes of last meeting & AGM: proposed Ross Couper, seconded John Wood.

3. Membership: No new members. Some memberships for May 2013 still not paid, despite Colin sending out reminders - John Keiller, Brian Lowe, Martin Gostwick. Colin D to send out reminders - again.

4. Allotments:

Old Tennis Courts:

- Enquiries again from both Elaine Hodgson and Marjorie Paterson regarding plot availability.
- Question was raised about whether Kelly More plans to continue with her plot in 2014 as she didn't seem to use it much in 2013. Colin D to send email to confirm.
- Concerns raised earlier about some plots being a little neglected, now allayed by recent works carried out.

Forsyth House Beds:

- A cleanup in October should have been arranged by Secretary. This was not done due to his persistent sciatica - apologies from Secretary. Agreed to plan this for late March after worst frosts over.
- John Wood and Barbel Dister have been working out a planting plan for the beds combining herbs, fruiting bushes and small fruit trees. In addition, John W proposed the planting of a low Box hedge around the edging to discourage dogs. It was confirmed that CAGS does have sufficient funds from previous grant application for this project to cover plant costs, as well as ongoing assistance from the Common Good Fund which has been agreed but not yet used.

5. Courthouse Orchard: Now dormant, but it was agreed that it looked very good in the summer and that health of planted fruit bushes and trees bodes well for future harvest.

Other - Daffodil Field: as there are still people very keen to have a plot, and no land available for them it was agreed that we should contact Major Phipps regarding the Daffodil field and find out if he is now amenable to leasing this to us. Colin D to write to him with photos showing success of current allotments and invitation for him to visit when next in Cromarty. It was suggested that he was put off in 2010 by fears about insurance. Letter to clarify that CAGS would be responsible for public liability insurance and maintenance of wall.

6. Date, time and venue for next meeting: Proposed Wednesday 19th March at 7.00pm at 4 Barkly Street, Cromarty. Suggestion of bi-monthly instead of tri-monthly discussed, and will be raised again at next meeting.

7. Any other business:

- Beach sea ramparts - posts and planks. Ross has been working on this with Steve (Archaeologist) but the buttressing requires more rocks. Ross asked if plot-holders can dump stones in there to help sea defences.

- Suggestion that CAGS members could sell surplus veg at Produce Fairs. However, there were concerns that this might have an impact on vegetable sellers. Preference is to continue with placing surplus produce in boxes by allotment gate for anyone to take.

- Vanessa had emailed to suggest having a communal wheelbarrow, rather than each of us having. Colin D said happy to leave his by shed for communal use when not in use.

- Maggie Dove asked if the group would reconsider having a toilet onsite for those, like herself, who have further to travel. Concern was raised about the lack of sufficient space. Ross suggested it could perhaps go on his plot. Colin D asked to email all plot-holders to invite views on this and get a vote.

- As a considerable area adjacent to the allotments is fenced off for the archaeological dig, Colin D wondered if we could approach Cromarty Estate about perhaps leasing this ground once the digs are over so as to expand plot spaces.