

# Cromarty Allotments and Gardens Society

## Minutes of 2nd Meeting

The meeting was held at the Miller Institute, Church Street, Cromarty on 21 May 2009 from 6.30 to 7.30pm.

### *Present*

Jane Clunas, Barbel Dister, Colin Dunn, Ken Dupar, Kristina Dupar, Vanessa Halhead, Shirley Matheson, Paul Shepherd, Gwilym Williams, Jill Williams, John Wood

Apologies were received from Brian Lowe, Shirley Matheson and Rosie Thompson.

### *Background*

John Wood took the chair. This meeting was held to follow up the inaugural meeting two weeks earlier. started by outlining progress to date in promoting allotments.

### *Allotment Sites*

John said he had discussed allotments with Evan McBean who had unfortunately said that the favoured site alongside the Ladies Walk would not be possible for the time being. He suggested a possible alternative however – part of the glebe field adjoining the Manse. This is less ideal, as it is slightly further out from Cromarty, and slopes toward the north, but is good agricultural land and sheltered by trees from the north and east. Water is also apparently available. The biggest potential problem he identified might be spray drift from agricultural operations, but the meeting felt that this was not insurmountable. However, he had also suggested a very short term lease, which would be much more difficult for the Society as some security of tenure is essential.

It was agreed that this site should be investigated further. It was also agreed that we should clarify the ownership of this as Ken Dupar said he understood it to belong to the Church of Scotland. Jane Clunas will look into this aspect. *\* Since clarified - the field adjacent to the Manse is owned by Evan McBean, and the one to the west of this by the Church of Scotland.*

It was also agreed to continue to explore any other possible options that might have been missed to date.

### *Non-allotment activities*

The meeting confirmed that the Allotments and Gardens Society would be open to anyone locally with an interest in gardening.

Members are asked to contact possible owners of large gardens who might be interested in garden sharing schemes. There is no specific model and arrangements can vary according to circumstances.

The possibility of planting fruit trees in public spaces in Cromarty was raised. Members are invited to identify potential sites and issues.

Colin Dunn has very kindly set up a new website for the Society at

<http://www.spanglefish.com/cromartyallotments>. This was very well received. He suggested that those with gardening books who might be prepared to allow other members to borrow them, could list them online.

Vanessa Halhead suggested a local veg distribution scheme which could also operate at least partly by the website. This would allow those with surplus produce, plants, or seeds to exchange or even sell them. She will talk to Jo Hunt and raise this again at the next meeting.

## *Formation of the Society*

The draft Constitution for the Society prepared by John Wood and including comments by jo Hunt, Sheila Currie, the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society and others, was adopted by the meeting. There is provision in the Constitution for amendments if need be.

The following officers were appointed unanimously:

*Chair:* Jane Clunas.

*Treasurer:* Gwilym Williams

*Secretary:* John Wood

For the time being, the Committee consists of all members.

A List of Founder Members is attached to these minutes. Those wishing to join the Society from now on will be asked to apply to the Secretary and applications will be approved at the next meeting. There is no subscription.

## *Next meeting*

It was agreed to meet again on Thursday 4 June at the Hugh Miller Institute at 6.45pm, subject to room availability.

## **Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Membership
4. Allotments – progress since last meeting
5. Other society activities: garden sharing; website; book sharing; local food distribution; fruit tree planting; any other activities
6. Cromarty Gardening Competition
7. Date, time and venue for next meeting
8. Any other business

## *List of Founder Members*

Jane Clunas  
Sheila Currie  
Anne Davies  
Barbel Dister  
Colin Dunn  
Ken Dupar  
Kristina Dupar  
Craig Fraser  
Martin Gostwick  
Vanessa Halhead  
Fiona Hall  
Jo Hunt  
Ben Leyshon  
Brian Lowe

Shirley Matheson  
Gillian McNaught  
Annie Ratcliffe  
Rachel Robertson  
Shirley Ross  
Paul Shepherd  
Patsy Thomson  
Rosie Thompson  
Fran Tilbrook  
Ian Welsh  
Darren Williams  
Gwilym Williams  
Jill Williams  
John Wood

## *Addendum*

I forgot to raise these at the meeting, but we have received letters of support from the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) and the Federation of City Farms (FCFCG). These are added below. Please note the SAGS conference in Dunblane on 20 June. I am unable to go but it would be really good if someone could!

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Hello John,

This is just to congratulate you on progress and I hope your meeting on 7th May goes well. If there is anything Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society can do, please let us know. And, we would like to know how things are going.

Meanwhile, you may be interested to know that our annual conference is in Dunblane on Saturday 20th June. Details and a registration form are on our website. It is free although donations for lunch are much appreciated!

It is a mixture of politicians (including Roseanna Cunningham, Minister for the Environment), council officials, and ploholders from all over Scotland. There are also some workshops which might be of interest to your group.

Best wishes,  
Jenny Mollison  
([secretary@sags.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sags.org.uk))

<http://www.sags.org.uk/>

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Dear John

Good luck with setting up your allotments and other community garden projects. The Federation of City Farms has a project called the Allotment Regeneration Initiative, which has a very useful website, full of resources useful for allotments - <http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari/>

The Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society also has a really useful website at: <http://www.sags.org.uk/>

The Federation of City Farms website is: <http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/>. It has a member area that has very useful resources. You can find out more about becoming a member here: <http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/join> membership is free for a year for organisations with income of less than £10 000. You don't need to be constituted to become a member but you do need to have a committee made up from people from the local community.

The community garden starter pack costs £6 and is available from the address below.

Thanks for your interest and if there is anything specific you would like more information on, please let me know.

Best wishes  
Juliet

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