

## Minutes of TGAA Committee Meeting 18th February 2025

Present: Tony Hollander (Chairman), Neil MacLennan, (Vice Chairman), Rachel Faulkner (Secretary), Jonathan Clark (Shop & Skip, Website) Bob Crabtree (Treasurer), Dorothea Maraki (Lettings Secretary), Michael Wheale (Bonfires and Compost), Richard Gordon (Pest Control), Robin Nicholas (Water) Julie Brannan (observing).

Apologies: Andrew Van Hamel Parsons,

TH welcomed Dorothea Maraki as the new Lettings Secretary, replacing Martin Fleminger.

RF gave a short review of the Harvest Supper. Hiring the two front rooms in addition to the SMI Hall had provided useful additional space for coats etc. A small team of helpers had been recruited to assist in the kitchen and setting up the food tables. The evening was enjoyed by all.

JC will ask Sara Holdsworth to be the judge of the photo competition at the 2025 Harvest Supper if Karen Fremer wishes to hand over this role.

**The AGM:-** takes place on Tuesday 25th March. The SMI hall is booked from 7.15pm. NMacL has agreed to provide the welcome drinks for members. Committee members were reminded that they will be up for re-election at the AGM. MF stepped down as Lettings Secretary earlier this year and RF is stepping down as Secretary after the AGM. Dorothea Maraki has been co-opted as Lettings Secretary and Julie Brannan is willing to become Secretary. JC has also indicated that he would like to step down from his three roles of Shop Co-ordination, Skip organiser and Website Manager. Members should be notified about all these roles before the AGM so that they have the opportunity to put themselves forward for election to the Committee.

- **Action:- RF to notify members of all available roles in a calling notice about the forthcoming AGM. ( due to be sent out on February 25th)**
- **Committee members to submit their reports for the AGM to RF by 14th March.**

**Finance:-** RC reported that the City Council had requested a rental payment of £600 for the coming year.

TGAA has assets of £17,000 and a net income of c £2,000. The shop made a small surplus and membership fees also contributed a useful amount.

**Pruning:-** NMacL asked for Chris Lanzac to come in May to prune the communal damson trees.

He also would like trees and their maintenance/pruning to be on the agenda at the AGM.

TH has done a lot of work on the allotment side of the perimeter fence.

JC thinks that the Council may still agree to trim some of the trees on the southern border with Port Meadow.

**Action:- N MacL to present a paper re pruning at the AGM**

**Machinery :-** AVHP sent a brief report

“All equipment seems to be functioning correctly, fuel usage is normal.

The small tiller, strimmer, two walking mowers and Countax tractor have all been serviced over the winter by Meadhams (the Countax has also had the faulty front tyre replaced).

I will find a quiet period during the summer for us and for Meadhams to book the large tiller and flail mower for servicing as I don't believe these have been done for a couple of years.

I will be taking the Countax tractor's battery for a recharge in late February / early March as it tends to go flat over the winter.- it will be returned and refitted within 48 hours."

AVHP will repair the chainsaw which will be kept separately from the main shed.

**Bonfires and Compost :-** MW said one compost bin was drying well and would soon be ready for use. The bonfire pile is huge as a result of tree and perimeter pruning and persistent rainy days have so far prevented lighting a successful bonfire.

**Lease update:-**

A new Lease from OCC is in the final stages of agreement.

MW gave the Committee an outline of the incorporated Co-operative option recommended by the ODFAA and preferred by the OCC. Eden Drive Allotments Association were successful with their application to the FCA in 2022 and the TGAA can use this same format. The FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) approved OCC model rules in 2021.

Any significant developments would be explained to members at the forthcoming AGM in March. If the Co-operative option is adopted the current trustees (TH, NMacL and JC) would not be needed as under the old arrangements. The Co-operative would require a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Each plotholder as a member would have a £1 shareholding. The current rules of the TGAA might need some adjustment if /when we become a Co-operative and to fit in with the OCC new model for all allotment sites rules under the new Lease.

The 'Co-op' Secretary and Treasurer would need to send an Annual Report to The FCA including our financial report. The EDAA Ltd had found HMRC would consider the financial dealings to be too small for their consideration.

**Action:- MW to prepare a statement to present to members at the AGM.**

**Plot Allocations:-** DM reported that there are currently 23 people on the waiting list and 5 available plots. The numbering of plots is still an issue. DM would also stress to new members that the growing of fruit trees needed careful consideration and abiding by the rules of TGAA.

**Pest Control:-** RG summarised his recent work highlighting a clear reduction in the rat population from this time last year. Significant strengthening of the perimeter fences and regular patrolling of the site has also reduced the number of rabbits. A stoat has been spotted near the site which is encouraging news. DM had seen a young Muntjac on the site. RG will investigate further. RG asked for kitchen waste to be banned from the site as this encourages rats. This will be communicated to members at the AGM. RG has contact with a charity called Abundance who will come and pick unwanted fruit which they then donate to a food bank. This would also help to reduce rat and other vermin numbers.

**Shop and Skip:-**

JC has received all the new stock for the shop. Blue water piping (useful as hoops for netting) is difficult to source. RN to pass on info of a good source to JC  
JB asked if there could be fewer plastic products for plot covering. DM uses a company who sell wool coverings which last about 3 years. DM to advise JC on this source.

**AOB:-**

It was suggested that there could be a minimum charge for the rental of a small plot (£10) which might be introduced when TGAA becomes a Co-operative.

It is thought that some members might be inclined to use CCTV cameras following several fruit and produce disappearances/thefts during the past growing seasons. It was thought that this could be discussed at the AGM, as some members might feel uncomfortable about the purpose and use of CCTV cameras on the allotments.

**Action:- RF to add CCTV camera use to the AGM agenda.**

**Future Dates:- Harvest Supper November 15th 2025 - SMI is booked**

**Next Committee Meeting:- Tuesday 17th June at 9 a.m.**