

## **Minutes of TGAA Committee Meeting**

**Held: 11am on 17 June 2025**

**At: 23 Chalfont Road, OX2**

**Present: Tony Hollander (Chairman), Neil MacLennan, (Vice Chairman), Julie Brannan (Secretary), Bob Crabtree (Treasurer), Richard Gordon (pest control), Dorothea Maraki (Lettings Secretary), Andrew Van Hamel Parsons (machinery) and Karen Walker (shop)**

Apologies: Michael Wheale, Robin Nicholas

1. TH welcomed Karen Walker, who is taking over responsibility for the shop from Jonathan Clark, and Julie Brannan who is the new Secretary.

### **Matters arising**

2. The minutes of the last meeting were signed. There were no matters arising.

### **Finance**

3. The Association currently has £20,000 in the Bank.
4. The decision taken at the last AGM to charge a £24 flat fee, regardless of plot size, and to discontinue the early payment and pensioner discounts will be taken forward.

### **Plot allocation**

5. There is a waiting list of three people. DM has written to people with neglected plots to try to achieve productive activity.

### **Pest control**

6. The committee discussed how best to manage the current outbreak of the Apple Ermine moth. Advice from Chris Lanczac at Waterperry Gardens supports trapping moths.

**ACTION: Richard Gordon to investigate cost and feasibility of buying pheromone traps to hang in the trees. He will report back to the committee.**

### **Machinery**

7. AVHP presented a brief report. The sit-on mower is being fixed again. But it doesn't need replacing. A petrol tap will be fitted which needs to be operated before and after use.
8. The cover for the little mower is missing. .
9. RG reminded the meeting that the northern border of the path where the new fence has just been placed to keep out rabbits should not be mown. He has placed two pieces of wood to mark the area. Similarly, orange ramps have been placed to mark the area of Japanese knotweed which must also not be mown.

**ACTIONS:**

- **Andrew Van Hamel Parsons to circulate messages about equipment.**
- **Tony Hollander to brief the mowing team.**

10. We discussed managing the Japanese knotweed. Spraying, not cutting is the best option. But it is difficult to eradicate entirely while it is growing on the railway lines.

**ACTION: Tony Hollander to write to Network Rail to make sure they are aware of the presence of the Japanese knot-weed and to ask them to remove it.**

**Bonfires and compost**

11. The compost bin timbers are rotting. David Haynes to be asked about replacing them.

**ACTION: Michael Wheale**

**Trees**

12. The committee discussed how best to manage the trees on the allotment. The following actions were agreed:

**ACTIONS:**

- **Dorothea Maraki to review and update the wording on the website to reflect the decision taken at AGM that trees may not be planted without permission, that dwarf stock should be used and that trees should not be planted close to the border with another allotment.**
- **Tony Hollander to circulate a message to allotment members with details of the AGM decision and remind them that the allotment association will arrange and pay for trees to be removed.**
- **Dorothea Maraki and Andrew Van Hamel Parsons will log all trees on the allotments.**

**Shop**

13. KW is continuing to run the systems which Jonathan Clark had put in place. It is all running smoothly. The rota has been set up for the summer, and there is no need for additional volunteers.

**Water**

14. The system continues to work well. However some pipes are now vulnerable to mowing damage on paths and would be better buried. The solar panels need to be kept clean and free from overhanging branches.

**ACTION: Robin Nicholas and Neil MacLennan to review system to check panels working optimally and whether any pipes should be buried.**

**Larder**

- 15.** Nothing substantial to report from Mary Gurr, who continues to administer the scheme. A message to members reminding them of it has just gone out.

**AOB**

- 16.** The committee reviewed Jonathan Clark's former responsibilities and allocated them as follows:

- Website: DM
- Membership list: DM
- Gate code: DM will arrange periodic changes; AVHP will take responsibility for keep in repair.
- Skip: RG
- Photo competition: Sarah Holdsworth will be asked to do the publicity and contact DM about the Website.

**ACTION: Tony Hollander to contact Sarah.**

**Future Dates**

- **Harvest Supper November 15th 2025 - SMI is booked**
- **AGM: 24 March 2026 - SMI is booked**

**Next Committee Meeting**

- **11am on Monday, 20 October 2025**

The meeting ended at 10.40 a.m.