

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held on Monday 27th October 2009 at 23 Chalfont Road, Oxford.

Present: Tony Hollander (chairman); Neil MacLennan (deputy chairman); Bob Crabtree (treasurer); Kate Lack (outgoing secretary); Virginia Wallis (incoming secretary); Vibeke Mannion (lettings secretary); Carol Jarvis (lettings secretary); Pete Jarvis (pest control); Jonathan Clark (website and machinery).

Apologies: Stuart Skyte.

Agenda

1 Problem plotholders

CJ and VM outlined events leading up to the eviction of two plotholders who are refusing to leave and detailed the difficulties in communications as a result of the plotholders failing to keep their contact details up-to-date. There was a general feeling that a compromise solution needed to be reached as, although the plotholders have been technically evicted, pursuing a long drawn-out legal process would leave a sour taste (but that we did need to know what that process was). In the light of signs of work on the plots having started (even though outside the deadlines set by the letting secretaries), it was agreed that subject to certain conditions, the plotholders in question would be allowed to stay. It was also agreed that stricter rules – more in line with other allotment associations – needed to be put in place.

Action:

VW to circulate draft letters for the committee to agree and TH to send;

TH to find out about the Council's eviction procedure;

VW to investigate other associations' rules for circulation with the Spring newsletter and discussion at the AGM.

2 Wells

Lars Thielkar will shortly be buying liners for the well that he has public-spiritedly dug on the corner of his plot for communal use.

3 Rabbits

Rabbit sightings indicate that rabbits are still a problem and/or have learnt to pole vault. There has been no news from JC's rabbit-suppressing contact.

Action:

JC to get in touch with Farakh.

4 Fence

Chicken wire has been bought to close the loopholes in the fence but it needs fitting. The Council can't pay but it was agreed that TGAA could fund a contractor rather than organise a working party.

Action:

TH to engage the Council's contractor to fit the chicken wire.

5 Pond

TH reported that the Water Habitat Trusts which operate out of Oxford Brookes will be giving advice.

6 Skip

The skip is full and will be removed. There will be another skip in the spring.

7 Spending TGAA's money

There was some discussion about how approval for TGAA spending should be organised. It was agreed that any spending on behalf of TGAA needed to be agreed in advance. It was proposed that routine or regular expenditure – eg on skips or for machinery maintenance – would not need prior approval but that any other expenditure would require BC's approval only for amounts up to £100 but that he would refer spending requests for amounts above £100 to the committee.

8 Level crossing

TH reported that after discussions with Chiltern Rail, there was every chance that the level crossing would be closed as Network Rail's policy is not to allow any new crossings and in their view, any crossing over the proposed new line would be a new crossing. It was generally agreed that we should contest this during the consultation process.

9 New car park

TH reported that the new car park that will be created after the proposed redevelopment of the land by Phil & Jim school is OK and will have 11 spaces for allotment holders' cars.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm.