

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held at 9.30 on Tuesday 17 January 2011 at 23 Chalfont Road, Oxford.

Present: Tony Hollander (chairman); Neil MacLennan (deputy chairman); Virginia Wallis (secretary); Bob Crabtree (treasurer); Carol Jarvis (lettings secretary); Pete Jarvis (pest control); Jonathan Clark (website and machinery); Stuart Skyte (social and website).

Apologies: Vibeke Mannion (lettings secretary).

Agenda

1 Inquiry: more evidence and closing submissions

The Committee was joined by Ian Salisbury who was thanked for his hard work and brilliantly detailed and thorough contribution to the inquiry process.

Site visit by the Inquiry Inspector is scheduled for 2 February 2011 and there is consent for IS, JC and TH to attend the inspection. It was suggested that the inspector be taken to the northern boundary to show how far some plot holders will have to go to their plots if the crossing is closed. JC will arrange for a skip to be in place in the car-parking space proposed by Chiltern in time for the inspection (done).

Car-parking proposal by Ian Salisbury which will be sited next to the school's acoustic fence on county-council-owned land has the support of both city and county councils (assuming that we get to keep the crossing). According to the council, planning permission will be needed for change of use of the land but this can be done by letter to a planning officer as it would count as 'permitted development'. It was agreed that we would ask the council to deal with the planning aspects (done).

Right to use the route to the crossing has been asserted and all the necessary affidavits have been prepared. It is now up to Chiltern to prove that we don't have a right to use the land and the QC at the inquiry was clearly unhappy with this.

Safe use of the crossing needs to be stressed to our members. IS reported that a family with two children under 10 were recently seen to cross in front of a moving train, only just reaching the other side before the train went over the crossing. JC to draft a note to members reiterating safety guidelines with a link to the guidance published on the TGAA website (done). IS suggested an annual inspection of shrubbery along the line to ensure that the railway company keeps our sightlines clear of vegetation.

Conditions IS is supporting the conditions that JC will be putting forward to the inquiry.

Final submissions will be presented to the inquiry on 27 January 2011 as there is no requirement to present them in advance.

2 Problem plots

On 3 December 2010, in accordance with TGAA procedure and as unanimously agreed at the committee meeting on 2 December 2010, both Simon Carr and John Wynne were issued with notices to quit. Simon Carr has agreed to give up his plot. Following steps to clear John Wynne's plot of rubbish and other materials in preparation for re-letting, Wynne has since been in contact with the council and some of the committee protesting against the committee's actions and has reinstated his belongings. James Dixon at the council knows that we have followed our procedures and will support us in ending Wynne's membership. TH has told Wynne to cease coming to the site and to stop interfering with the duty of the lettings secretaries to re-let the plots. Wynne has not been back in contact with the committee but has been seen on the allotment site. It was decided that we had no choice but to change the combination on the locks. JC will warn members of the code change which will take place (weather permitting) on Friday 28 January 2011 (done). It was agreed that any new plot holder would be warned about the plot's history.

Change of lettings secretary Vibeke has decided to stand down as letting secretary but she will continue with all the hard work of running the shop. VW volunteered to take over her duties as lettings secretary.

3 Plant sale

The date of the plant sale has changed and it will now be held on Sunday 22 May 2011.

4 Newsletter

Tony will collate contributions and Stuart will jazz up the email version to be sent to members. The newsletter will cover the inquiry (TH), AGM date (8 April 2011), harvest supper date (12 November 2011), photo competition (SS), plant sale date (22 May 2011), new seed discount schemes (VW) and possible discount cards for members (VW).

5 AOB

Next Committee meeting will be held at 9.30 on 15 March 2011.

Fees It was agreed that, at the AGM, we would propose putting up plot fees up to £15 for half a plot; £30 for a full plot and membership fees up to £15 reduced to £12, £24 and £12 if paid before 31 March 2011.

Rats About 20 rat boxes are available for members reporting problems with rats. JC to draft a note (done).

Blue barrels Thanks to Neil, there are now 17 blue plastic barrels in the equipment shed which it was agreed should be kept for lining wells for which there would be no charge.

The meeting ended at 11.05