

Minutes of the TGAA Committee Meeting held at 11am on Tuesday 18th October at 23 Chalfont Road.

Present:- Tony Hollander(Chairman), Rachel Faulkner (secretary), Bob Crabtree (Finance), Virginia Wallis (lettings secretary), Philip James (machinery), Michael Wheale (Bonfires and Compost)

Apologies:- Jonathan Clark, Neil MacLellan, Robin Nicholas

Matters arising:- The subletting of plots was discussed. It was agreed that all those working on a plot should pay the membership fee.

Finance:- BC confirmed that the balance in the account remains at approximately £14,000 and that there had been little expenditure recently.

TH:- Scottish and Southern Electricity are to build a new sub station beyond the fence at the far end of the car park, adjacent to the railway track. A trench will need to be dug through the car park, and along Aristotle Lane. The work will be done during the winter and it is hoped that it may take only two weeks.

Tree Pollarding:- The trees on Port Meadow bordering the southern boundary are the responsibility of Oxford City Parks Department.

Action:- JC to liaise with Laura from the Parks Department.

A member had contacted the Committee asking for some trees to be pruned. David Haynes could be asked to do this.

Action:- VW to ask all members if they have any trees which they want felling or pruning on or near their plot.

JC to discuss the pruning of the fruit trees near the pond by the entrance to the allotments.

Plot allocation and usage

The waiting list continues to remain high. The holders of neglected and unworked plots will be asked to relinquish a half or a quarter of their plot because of the long waiting list. Some whole plots could be divided into three in the future. BC suggested that the rental fee structure for the plots could be simplified

Action:- Rental fees to be discussed at the next meeting.

Wells:- The well on Plot 6W needs filling in.

Action:- JC and TH to form a working party to fill in the well with rubble and dispose of the galvanised container.

The well lid on Plot 7 remains unsafe. There is a trough on the plot which is part of the new water system. The Committee feels that this well could also be filled in.

Action:- JC to discuss with the plot holder.

Shared machinery:- The two mowers are working well and are usually clean when returned. Communication is good between members over their use and any problems arising. No servicing is needed this winter. PJ will check the equipment and clean as necessary.

Action:- PJ will research prices for a long handled, petrol driven hedge trimmer/pruner. This piece of equipment would be available to a limited number of competent users.

Pest Control:-Oxford Direct Services will carry out a rat survey on the allotments. JC has put down four rat boxes.

Bonfires and Compost:- MW anticipates another bonfire will soon be needed. The 'best ever' compost is currently available to be used by members.

The new tap has enabled the compost bins to be watered occasionally during the hot weather.

Water system:- RN provided a short report on water usage, comparing 2021 and 2022. This report could be made available to all members at the AGM in March 2023.

Cuttleslowe Larder:- RF reported that the response for donations of surplus produce has been much greater than last year. The current cupboard is dilapidated.

Action:- RF to discuss the use of crates for storing the surplus produce with Mary Gurr.

Skip:- The skip will be removed on 27th October.

Action:- JC to decide if a second skip is needed.

Shop:- The shop is now closed until the Spring although VW will open it if something is required urgently. Members who volunteer to man the shop were thanked and additional members have offered to join the rota.

Website:- JC is pleased with the new provider.

Manure deliveries:- TH has given David Haynes keys for access to Port Meadow and the allotments so there will be no need for members to borrow the keys in future. Deliveries of manure should only be made when the ground is firm and hard.

Harvest Supper:- The SMI hall is booked for the Harvest Supper on Saturday 12th November.

Action:- RF to notify the members of the arrangements for the Harvest Supper. RF to book the hall for the Harvest Supper in 2023.

Date of Next Meeting:- Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 11am at 23 Chalfont Road.

The Meeting closed at 12.20pm