

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held at 10.00 on Tuesday 29 June 2010 at 23 Chalfont Road, Oxford.

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

Apologies: Carol Jarvis (lettings secretary); Vibeke Mannion (lettings secretary).

Agenda

1 Car parking

TH reported that because of budget cuts, Phil & Jim's proposed acquisition of the land that is currently our car park is on hold. Nevertheless, the concerns raised by Ian Salisbury about the proposed new car-parking arrangements were discussed and it was agreed that it was still worth raising the issue with the council and putting forward Ian Salisbury's proposed alternative.

Action: TH to ask Ian Salisbury to produce drawings of his preferred car-parking arrangements.

2 Crossing strategies

JC reported that the draft document 'How to design and operate level crossings' states that pedestrian level crossings are not allowed in places where trains are going at more than 125mph. It was therefore agreed that it would be extremely useful to have evidence of train speeds as outlined by Ian Salisbury. Collecting this evidence would also show that we are serious about our objection to closure of the crossing. It was also agreed that we should follow Ian Salisbury's suggestion that we should produce guidance on how to cross the level crossing safely to be added to the website and included in the new members' pack.

Action: JC to write guidance to include advice on children, pets and awkward loads and to make members aware of the alternative access for delivering awkward loads via Walton Well Road.

TH to obtain speed gun and stop watches for recording train speeds.

VW to email TGAA Membership asking for volunteers to operate speed gun and stop watches.

3 Alternative routes

It was agreed that when we have drawings for all the alternatives for routes to the allotments via Port Meadow, we would put them to the membership for a vote. It was also agreed that JC would write to Paul Clarke regarding the risk assessment, the promised meeting with Network Rail, the so-called near miss, the design of the new level crossing and the apparent contradictions between what Chiltern have been telling us and what is stated in the draft document 'How to design and operate level crossings'.

Action: JC to remind Ian Salisbury to produce drawings of his proposed alternative route for access via Port Meadow and to write to Paul Clarke.

4 Insurance

RC proposed that we should not renew our current insurance for machinery and other equipment but should self-insure instead as this would save us £600 a year. It was agreed that we should not wait for renewal but should cancel now to get a refund.

5 Membership cards

VW reported that we could join the discount scheme for allotment holders at Yarnton and other garden centres if we had a membership card and proposed arranging for cards to be printed. It was agreed that cards should be annual and have a space to write in the plot holder's name and the year. Membership cards would be entirely voluntary.

Action: VW to draft a design of the card for circulation to the committee.

6 Pallets

VW proposed that we organise for a free load of pallets to be delivered to the site for use by members and to be stored behind the machinery shed. This was agreed.

The meeting ended at 11.45