

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held via Zoom at 11.00 on 30th October 2020.

Present: Tony Hollander (chairman); Neil MacLennan (deputy chairman); Bob Crabtree (treasurer); Virginia Wallis (secretary and lettings secretary); Chris Beckett (shop); Jonathan Clark (website and machinery); Michael Wheale (compost); and Robin Nicholas (water).

Apologies: Roger Mumby-Croft (lettings secretary) and Mike Godley (water).

Matters arising

Further to the action points completed since the committee meeting on 18th February 2020:

- VW will update the TGAA rules once it is clear how becoming a co-operative and our new lease will influence what the new rules have to be;
- David Haynes' removal of nuisance trees did not happen because of lockdown;
- The 2020 AGM was cancelled and substituted with an email newsletter. The SMI hall has been booked for Saturday 27th March 2021 but the 2021 AGM is more likely to be via Zoom;
- the 2020 Harvest Supper was also cancelled but the SMI hall has been booked for Saturday 13th November 2021 in case we're back to normal by then;
- the allotment shop is closed for the winter but will open on request;
- THE NEXT TGAA COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 11.00 ON TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2021.

Treasurer's report

Thanks to RC for circulating his Treasurer's report in advance of the meeting. By next March, we should have £13,000 in the bank of which £7,000 is borrowed. It was agreed that because of the reserves we need to have available against needing a new ride-on mower, paying our – so far – uncollected 2020 rent to the council and becoming a cooperative, we would keep fees at double the standard rate for 2021 as originally planned. It was also agreed that we would discuss the repayment of loans at the next committee meeting in February 2021.

Water project

The water project is very nearly complete with just two troughs to be linked into the system. This can be done with materials that we already have but we may also need to replace taps with metal ones. Any additional expenditure to complete the project is unlikely to exceed £100. RN plans to stay on the committee for another year so that he is in a position to deal with any problems that arise. He also plans to produce a manual describing the water project which he will be able to do in the new year. MG has decided to stand down from the committee.

Action: VW to warn members that the water is not potable.

Action: MG or RN to install plant netting on the tank so that the climbers can disguise it.

Becoming a cooperative

OCC and ODFAA recommended that we switch to being a cooperative in preparation for signing our new lease (which is scheduled to happen in March 2021). Preliminary research by JC has revealed that becoming a cooperative can cost between £600 and £1,000. The most cost-effective method appears to be to use the model rules provided by the National Allotment Society which would mean re-joining it at a cost of £3 per member. But it would mean that we can access their legal advice and public liability insurance.

Action: JC and MW to read through the Financial Conduct Authority's rules on becoming a cooperative to identify what practical steps we need to take.

Action: RC to ask his judge neighbour to look at the documentation as well.

AOB

Waiting list The waiting list now has 80 people on it with 50 of those joining since lock down was announced on 23rd March 2020.

Action: VW to organise a plot inspection to identify plots in need of new plot holders.

Nuisance trees We need to re-identify the nuisance trees that need to be dealt with. It was agreed that this would be combined with the plot inspection.

Asbestos Once our new lease is signed, the council will become responsible to dealing with asbestos on the allotment site. So until that happens no action needs to be taken.

The meeting ended at 12.00

