

Minutes of TGAA Committee Meeting held at 23 Chalfont Road on 6.02.'23

Present:- Tony Hollander (Chairman), Neil MacLennan (Vice Chairman), Bob Crabtree (Finance), Rachel Faulkner (Secretary), Jonathan Clarke (Shop, Skip), Philip James (Machinery), Virginia Wallis (Lettings Secretary).

Apologies:- Michael Wheale, Robin Nicholas.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.

Network Rail have built the new substation and access to the allotments has not been affected.

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

Action: JC to discuss with the plot holder.

Harvest Supper. This was well received by members after a lapse of three years due to Covid, with about 66 members attending. Committee members needed to provide some additional cutlery due to shortages at the SMI.

There were only 5 entries for the 2022 photo competition.

The subject for the photo competition in 2023 will be 'Pick Your Own'.

The Hall is booked for Saturday 11th November 2023

Action: RF to discuss cutlery and plate shortages with the Chairman of the SMI.

TGAA AGM. It was agreed that the AGM would be held in person at the SMI on Tuesday 28th March. Members would be invited for 7.30pm (drinks) and the meeting would begin at 7.45pm.

The meeting would not be available on Zoom this year. All reports from Committee members would need to be submitted to RF by 14th March so that these could be circulated to members by email before the meeting.

Action:- Bob Crabtree agreed to provide the drinks.

Finance. BC reported that the finances were looking healthy. The annual accounts for 2022 show that less money was spent on machinery servicing. The shop continues to provide a useful amount of income. JC commented that the Sum Up facility means no cash is now taken.

Machinery. PJ reported that the flail and rotavator are currently being serviced. Once they are returned the ride on mower will go in for servicing.

PJ had researched the cost of a Honda petrol driven lopper (£670 + VAT). NMacL suggested purchasing a battery driven lopper instead.

JC has acquired a secondhand chainsaw which might resolve the problem of dealing with unwanted or inappropriate trees. However the majority of the Committee felt it would be better to use a contractor who was fully trained to use one safely as and when one was needed.

Action. PJ to discuss with RN for advice on battery charging etc. for a lopper.

Plot Allocation. VW is in the process of letting 7 plots now that the flooding has subsided. Plot 30 poses a serious challenge because of pond spoil etc but VW is hopeful that someone with years of allotment experience is willing to give it a try. Arthur has helped to tidy three of the available plots but as he now is working away he will be less able to help in the future.

Trees and Pruning.

10 members have told VW that they have problem trees on or near their plots which need attention.

TH has asked Chris Lanczac from Waterperry to come and demonstrate how to prune hard fruit trees on 25th February. 12 members have requested his help and his charge will be £200 for the session.

It is hoped another date can be arranged for him to prune the orchard trees around the site. On 15th March Chris Bell from Oxford City Council will meet to discuss the management of the big trees (sycamore, willow, ash) on the southern border.

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

Rats/Pest control. It was agreed that we should ask if a member would be willing to take on the responsibility of being The Pest Control Officer at the AGM in March.

Shop. JC will be ordering stock for the coming year . The shop will reopen in March. Several members have volunteered to be on the shop rota.

Skip. A skip will be ordered for early March.

AOB:

There was a general discussion about how to recruit Committee members when required/needed.

Security- JC and PJ suggested a winter lock was needed for the machinery shed to enhance security. The shed bar needed adjustment. Julian Cooper (Ranger for Port Meadow) would be informed.

Lease- We still await action from the City Council on a new Lease.

Cuttleslowe Larder: **Action. RF to buy new storage cupboard or crates and liaise with Mary Gurr**

Community Connections- TH has asked for the TGAA to remain on the OCC list of sites willing to take volunteers to assist with site maintenance.

Next Meeting. Tuesday 20th June at 11am.

