

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held at 10.30 on Wednesday 8 September 2010 at 23 Chalfont Road, Oxford.

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

Apologies: Neil MacLennan (Deputy Chairman); Bob Crabtree (treasurer); Vibeke Mannion (lettings secretary).

Agenda

1 Matters arising

Since the last committee meeting:

Car-parking Ian Salisbury has produced drawings of his preferred car-parking arrangements and given them to the council.

Guidance on the safe use of the railway crossing has been added to the website.

Membership cards VW reported that quotes for printing membership cards came to £220 + VAT for 500 cards and £296 + VAT for 1000 cards. Cards would have a signature strip on the back and a place to write in the expiry date. To cover costs, members could be charged £2 per card which would be issued annually. Alternatively, the membership fee could be increased to £10. It was agreed that membership cards (which we need if we are to take advantage of discounts of 10% at local garden centres available to allotment associations) would be discussed at the 2011 AGM.

Pallets from Johnson Buildbase have been delivered and have proved popular. Of the 35 or so delivered about eight remained. Another delivery will be arranged when they have all gone.

2 Stance for crossing enquiry

TH and JC attended the pre-enquiry meeting on 7 September 2010 and reported that Ian Salisbury, JC and the TGAA have each been allocated a slot to make an objection which need to be brief and to the point. It was agreed that Ian Salisbury would give his technical objection, JC would object as an ordinary plot holder and that TH would represent TGAA's collective objection which would be supported by calling two witnesses (possibly Stella Boswell and Joe Lee) to explain how closure of the crossing will affect them personally. Oxford City Council will support TGAA's stance with a written objection arguing that the railway project could prejudice allotments which are on council land.

It was agreed that we should invite the enquiry inspector to a site visit as this would make it very clear that there is plenty of room for a refuge between the two lines and also that the crossing is safe.

JC pointed out that in the 18 months since we have been dealing with Chiltern, there has been no change in the vagueness of the alternatives and also that there is a strong sense that we have been fobbed off. It was agreed that JC would draft an email on behalf of the committee so that we have a formal record to show that Chiltern have not provided essential information during the consultation exercise which we can refer to at the enquiry.

3 Autumn newsletter

TH will produce this after the next plot inspection which is scheduled for the last week of September. The contents (with copy author in brackets) will be as follows:

Crossing (TH); Rats (PJ); Willows (TH); Condition of plots (VM/CJ); Compost (VW); Wells (TH); Machinery, Mowing team (JC); Photo competition, Harvest supper, Mosaic, Compulsory working parties (SS); Plant sale (TH); and Poetry, prose and recipes (SS). SS volunteered to redesign the newsletter to make it more eye-catching.

4 Poetry, prose and recipes

SS proposed asking members for contributions of allotment-related poetry and prose with a view to following up the success of the Dig and Dine booklet with an allotment anthology of poetry and prose. It was agreed to ask initially for contributions for the website. It was also agreed that recipes should be added to the website as well.

5 OCC and Allotment Association meeting held 7 September 2010 at the Town Hall

This was attended by JC and VW who reported points of interest. These included: the fact that we formally need to inform the council of the change in trustees agreed at the 2010 AGM (VW to send); there has been an increase in complaints from allottees directly to the council but that the council will not overrule an allotment association's decision provided an association's own procedure has been followed; associations who did not take part in the allotment competition will be invited to the award ceremony. Pest control is on the agenda for the next meeting at 7.30 on Tuesday 14 December 2010 which JC and VW are unable to attend.

6 Machinery servicing

JC will be getting quotes for all the machinery to be serviced which he estimates will cost about £600 to £700.

The meeting ended at 12.40