

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held at 10.30 on Thursday 2 December 2010 at 23 Chalfont Road, Oxford.

Present: Tony Hollander (chairman); Virginia Wallis (secretary); Vibeke Mannion (lettings 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);

Agenda

1 Enquiry: more evidence and closing submissions

The Committee was joined by Ian Salisbury and Stella Boswell for discussion of tactics for the crossing enquiry.

Note: the following dates differ from those discussed at the meeting – JC has checked the inquiry schedule.

Those who have already given evidence to the enquiry (TH, JC, IS) are scheduled to give closing submissions on 26 January. The last date for presenting written closing submissions is seven days before, i.e. 19 January. Hoonie is scheduled to give evidence to the enquiry on 8 December 2010. Carol and Pete will submit their letter as soon as possible. Conditions day is 25 January 2011.

Action: VW to draft separate note of tactics. TH to forward Joe's closing submission and other relevant documents.

2 Finances: current balance and reserve account

In advance of the committee meeting, the Treasurer had submitted a statement of the financial position at 22 November 2010 together with proposed strategies for building up the bank balance and creating a contingency reserve primarily to fund replacement machinery.

The committee was unanimous in agreeing that a reserve would be a good thing and also that it would be good to have money available to pay for small jobs to be done. It was agreed that we would control expenditure by cancelling membership of the National Association which costs £294 a year. However, it was also agreed that we would stick with hiring four skips per year rather than cutting skips to two per year as proposed. The proposal to increase plot and membership fees was approved but it was suggested that these should go up by more than the proposed figures and from £10 to £15 (from £8 to £12 for early payment). Any fee increases will have to be agreed at the AGM.

Action: VW to find out what other allotment associations in the city charge in time for the AGM.

3 Machinery

With the exception of the Mantis tiller and the strimmer donated by Gerald, all equipment is being serviced this year. Turneys charged £400 to repair and £400 to service the Toro which in future will be serviced by Meadham's, who quoted £160 to service it this year. When Gerald's strimmer stops working it will be replaced with a more robust lightweight strimmer at a cost of approximately £200.

Action: JC to find out from PA Turney how to run the Toro to optimum efficiency including ensuring that the air filter is cleared on a regular basis.

4 King's seeds, alternatives and costs

As it was agreed that we will no longer pay to be members of the National Association,

we will no longer be able to order discounted seeds from King's. In future, members will be offered discounted seeds from Dobies, DT Brown, Mr Fothergills, Marshalls, Seeds of Italy (aka Franchi seeds) and Thompson & Morgan. All these companies require an initial minimum order of £100 but it is possible to order seeds throughout the year – not just in November. All except Marshalls require a bulk order from the association but orders will be delivered to members' home addresses. Both Dobies and Thompson & Morgan pay a percentage of the order total to the association so it was agreed that we would invite other associations to take advantage of these discount schemes to increase the potential revenue for TGAA.

5 AOB

Annual General Meeting VW to book the St Margaret's Institute for 8.00 on 6 April 2011.

School visits The committee agreed that while it was happy to welcome organised visits by local school children – along the lines of the visit by Phil & Jim in the summer - it could not accept informal, ad hoc visits organised by individual ploholders as this could cause problems with insurance and health and safety issues.

Notices to quit In view of the lack of response to warning letters and continued lack of reasonable cultivation, the committee agreed that the holders of plots 54e and 55e would be given immediate notice to quit in line with procedures outlined in the TGAA rules.

Trees The council will be coming back to finish work on cutting down trees.

Harvest supper This extremely enjoyable evening made a profit of £109 thanks to Stuart and Gillian Skyte.

Spring newsletter It was agreed that as a lot of people don't seem to read attachments, the Spring Newsletter will be sent as text in an email to improve readership.

Plant sale will be held on Sunday 29 May 2011 in the St Margaret's Institute.

The meeting ended at 12.50