

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held at 10.30 on Wednesday 23 March 2011 at 23 Chalfont Road, Oxford.

Present: Tony Hollander (chairman); Neil MacLennan (deputy chairman); Virginia Wallis (secretary); Bob Crabtree (treasurer); Carol Jarvis (lettings secretary); Pete Jarvis (pest control); Jonathan Clark (website and machinery); Vibeke Mannion (shop).

Apologies: Stuart Skyte (social and website).

Agenda

1 Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at 8.00pm on Friday 8 April 2011 at the St Margaret's Institute. The agenda will be as follows:

Chairman's report to cover the crossing enquiry, thanks and a bottle of wine for the fantastic job done by Ian Salisbury, proposed car parking and trees.

Treasurer's report covering the accounts – stressing the fact that 20% of income is spent on skips - the need to put up fees to create a £5,000 surplus against machinery failure (which will take a couple of years) and why we are no longer members of the National Federation and so will no longer have access to King's seed discount scheme.

Secretary's report on three new seed discount schemes with Dobies, Marshalls and Thompson & Morgan plus benefits of membership cards and further tightening up of rules.

Lettings Secretary's report following the plot inspection to be held at 2.00 on 29th March 2011.

Report on the shop which is fully stocked and which made a profit of £650 last year.

Machinery, skips and website report reminding members of what machinery is available and what people need to do to avoid fraying black plastic and bailer twine getting caught up in machinery. Reminder of what not to put in the skip and how to load it for maximum benefit.

Pest report There have been fewer reports of rats but we will have a stock of pre-baited traps available for when rats are spotted. Rabbit-trapping will begin and the fence will be mended to keep badgers out.

Plant sale will be held on Sunday 22 May 2011 at the St Margaret's Institute. Help is needed with advertising as we were warned about putting up too many posters on trees so members will be asked to print out and display posters in the windows of their homes.

Social report to cover photo competition (structures) and next social event(s).

Code change The AGM will be informed of the committee's proposal to change the code on the gate locks every year on 1 May.

Bees The committee is generally in favour of increasing the allotments' bee population but want an expert from the Bee-keeping association to visit the site to advise on best location. It was agreed that we need the agreement of the AGM and that the committee should have the power to eject hives if there are problems.

2 Membership for joint ploholders

To have the right to take on a plot, any joint plot holders must appear on the list of plot holders maintained by the secretary and must pay a separate membership fee if living at a different address from the first-named plot holder. This is explained to new members at the time of letting. Established members with informal sharers may not be aware of this. VW will email the membership encouraging plot holders with sharers who wish to formalise their status to fill in the plot membership form and pay the appropriate fee.

3 Wells

An audit of wells on the allotment site – noting wells in need of repair or filling in - will take place at the same time as the plot inspection. JC will draw up a map of wells for display on the noticeboards and website.

4 Derelict plot

TH reported that the council is unable to rotivate the low-lying derelict plot next to the damson orchard. Working parties to clear the plot will take place at 10.30 on Saturday 9th April 2011 and at 2.00 on Saturday 16th April 2011. Mary Gurr will be asked to help with the bonfire.

The meeting ended at 12.35