

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held at 5.30 pm on Thursday 16 February 2012 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 (AGM)

It was agreed that the 2012 AGM would be held in the first week of April subject to the availability of the St Margaret's Institute. The AGM was subsequently arranged for 8.00 pm on Thursday 5 April 2012 (the room is booked from 7.30 to allow for setting up).

The minutes of the 2011 AGM, the 2012 AGM agenda – together with a list of the current list of committee officers and a brief description of responsibilities – will be circulated at least a month before the actual meeting. A notice about the AGM will be posted on the allotment notice boards. It was agreed that paper copies of the minutes and agenda will not be handed out but there will still be paper copies of the accounts.

2 Finances

Since the fee increase last year, we have built up a healthy surplus so are now in a position to replace the Toro if necessary. Genefer Clark has stood down as monitor of the accounts so we need to find a replacement. Tony will organise a bottle of wine as thanks to be presented at the AGM.

3 Car park

A meeting held on 15th February 2012 with representatives of the railway, city and county councils and the school, indicated that detailed consideration of the new position will be delayed. The Final Order for the Chiltern scheme may even need a second enquiry because of the abundance of fresh environmental objections and legal challenges. Additionally, the East-West link with another track for goods trains, the electrification and new signalling, and the uncertainty about Oxford railway station could be catching up on the original proposal and mean modifying it. In the meantime, car parking remains unchanged.

4 City council

When it has been finalised, the council's new Allotment Charter – which outlines the various responsibilities of ploholders, allotment committees and the council – will be put on the TGAA website as part of the information for new members. VW to update the welcome pack.

5 Wildlife:

Judy's warren Judy Shakespeare's shed needs moving so that the hole underneath it can be dealt with. Committee members to raise this with Judy.

Utta's trees Action needs to be taken to ensure that no more of Utta's trees are cut down. This may require the intervention of a Polish speaker so Tony will approach Mike Gill's wife.

Shop screen Recycled wooden posts have been used to create a framework for climbing plants which will include: evergreen honeysuckle, evergreen Bill Mckensie clematis, a passion flower, ivy and golden hop.

6 Machinery

All machinery – including the new strimmer donated by Vibeke – has been serviced by Meadhams which cost a lot less than last year.

JC to draw up mowing rota, organise a skip and a working party to help spread hardcore.

7 Harvest supper

The Harvest Supper will take place on Saturday 3 November 2012.

8 Plant sale

The plant sale will take place on Sunday 13 May 2012.

9 John Bullock's bench

John Bullock's family would like to provide a bench in memory of John Bullock and his wife Jill. Carol will liaise with Adam Bullock concerning the siting of the bench which will need to be concreted in.

AOB

Level crossing New members are advised to cross carefully when plots are let but it was agreed that a link to crossing guidance should be included in the updated welcome pack.

BBC Documentary The BBC wants to do a documentary on allotments and will be in touch. It was suggested that Stuart should be the contact in his role as TGAA media representative.

Newsletter Contributions will be as follows: Jonathan – equipment and working party; Tony – Chiltern and car park; Neil – summary of soil analysis; Pete – pests and their control.

The meeting ended at 7.10pm