

**Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting** held at 11.00 am on Thursday 9 August 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) Stuart Skyte (social and website).

## **Agenda**

### **1 Crossing – the locked gate**

Network Rail is going ahead with its plans for a locked gate with keypad on the Eastern side of the railway. It was pointed out that the gate needs to have a keypad on both sides to be fully secure. To encourage people not to take their bikes across the railway line, Network Rail will also install bike racks for six bikes next to the technical box by the gate. Jean Fooks is negotiating with Network Rail about the extra piece of land needed for our new car park.

**Action** TH to feed ideas for construction of the locked gate to Jean Fooks.

### **2 Car park**

It was agreed that we would prefer the current access to the town green maintained and that the new car park won't affect that access. It was pointed out that the pot holes in the path leading to the car park need filling in.

**Action** TH to contact Network Rail to ask them to deal with the pot holes.

### **3 Plot 122**

Rather than dig a third pond on the low-lying, flooding-prone plot 122, it was agreed we would pay for someone to move the compost from the third communal compost bay to the plot. When the current plot holder vacates the plot, which she is due to do in September, the plot will be grassed over and kept mown by the mowing team.

### **4 Compost**

Once the third communal compost bin has been emptied, communal composting can be resumed. The compost in Bay 2 is ready for use and members will be invited to help themselves to it. As it is good quality compost, it will not be used to bulk up low-lying plots.

### **5 Help for John Ashby with composting**

It was agreed that the communal composting area is an extremely useful resource and that the committee would give John Ashby an initial budget of £100 to pay someone to help him with it. It was also agreed that we would help John improve the signage and put something in the autumn newsletter to get the message across that lumps of soil and turves are not welcome in the communal compost. It was also proposed that general advice on composting would be added to the website and that we would create a turf bank near the communal composting site to give members somewhere to put turves and provide material for path works.

**Action** VW to talk to John about signs, where to site the turf bank and what he wants to say about the communal compost in the newsletter. SS to provide advice on composting for the website. JC to talk to John about getting paid help.

### **6 Bee shed**

A 7' by 5' shed is to be put up against the eastern fence inside the apiary. It will be owned by the current four beekeepers and will be used for storing their bee-keeping paraphernalia. Should Penny Tordorf and Liiz Greenhalgh ask to keep bees on the site, they will be invited to share the bee-keeping shed.

### **7 Matters arising from the AGM**

The date for next year's AGM has been changed to Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013. The plant sale will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2013. This year's Harvest Supper will take place on Saturday 3 November 2012. The subject of the photo competition is 'size matters'.

**Action** JC to send a reminder about the photo competition with details of how to enter.

**AOB**

**Out-of-date notices** need to be removed from the noticeboards and replaced with up-to-date versions.

**Friends of the Recreation Ground** have asked to borrow our strimmer but it was felt that this would not be an appropriate use of TGAA equipment.

**Thefts of crops** have been suffered by Stella Boswell, Nick Caudwell and Hoonie Palmer. JC to email the membership encouraging members to be vigilant.

**The autumn newsletter** will remind members to report vermin sightings to Pete

**The Dobies and Marshalls seed discount schemes** will continue next year with members being reminded to order potatoes from Vibeke for best value.

**The Toro** seems to be working adequately but changing the bearings may be done annually to ensure that they last the season.

**The fence** is quite overgrown and needs to be tackled after the black berries have been harvested. JC to contact Stuart Fitzsimmons about getting branches cleared and strimming done along the base of the fence.

**Hazels** in the north and west need pollarding.

**The meeting ended at 1.00pm**