

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held at 10.30 am on Tuesday 20 November 2012 at 23 Chalfont Road, Oxford.

Present: Tony Hollander (chairman); Neil MacLennan (deputy chairman); Virginia Wallis (secretary); Carol Jarvis (lettings secretary); Pete Jarvis (pest control); Jonathan Clark (website and machinery); Vibeke Mannion (shop) Stuart Skyte (social and website); Ian Salisbury.

Apologies: Bob Crabtree (treasurer).

Agenda

1 Proposed closure of the level crossing by Network Rail

The committee needs to submit its views on the proposed closure of the crossing to the Oxford City Council Executive Board before it next meets to consider the matter which will now be in February 2013 rather than December 2012.

Ian Salisbury set out his reasons for opposing closure and urged the committee to support his view. On the assumption that only one new line will be added, it was decided the committee will also object to closure of the crossing on the same basis as the committee's objections to the recent inquiry whose inspector found in our favour. However, more information on the detail of the proposals – as well as Chiltern Railways' plans – is required before the committee can finalise its view. This may be forthcoming at the proposed public meeting in January 2013 where Network Rail will explain its proposed changes to the railways in the Oxford area. More information is also needed on the proposed rebuilding of the foot bridge to accommodate electrification of the railway line. We will tell OCC that we are not convinced that there is a need to close the crossing given what we currently know.

Action TH to set up a meeting with Michael Crofton-Biggs to be attended by TH, JC and Ian Salisbury in order to get more information about the proposals.

2 South Eastern corner

Ian Salisbury wants the Corus plants moved so that he can mow behind them more easily and keep on top of the perennial weeds with which the pants are infested. Ian also noted that the pond is being choked by reeds and has no open water. The committee noted that the Hellebores and many of the Irises had been mowed into oblivion and proposed a site visit.

Action Ian to send his proposals for dealing with the pond. VW to arrange a combined plot inspection and site visit which will also incorporate reviewing the risk assessments.

3 Scaffolding boards

Ian Salisbury mentioned in the summer that his son had a source of cheap scaffolding boards but there has been no development.

Action JC to chase.

4 Newsletter

It was agreed that Stuart would continue to edit the newsletter to keep it short and snappy. It was also agreed that the editor's word is final.

5 Communal composting

Because the communal composting area is such a valuable resource for allotment holders, it was agreed that we would employ someone regularly for approximately four hours per month to deal with the composting and to take the strain off John Ashby.

Action JC to liaise with John Ashby and Adrian.

6 Harvest supper

It was agreed that the harvest supper was a particularly jolly do this year and that the quiz was a highlight – especially the film titles. Thanks to Stuart and Gillian.

7 Machinery

JC will ask Meadhams to service all the machinery in need of a service and to return it by Christmas.

The meeting ended at 12.10pm