

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held at 10.30 am on Friday 7th February 2014 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); Michael Wheale.

Agenda

1 Finances

The treasurer reported that TGAA's finances are in a very healthy state with surplus income in 2013 of £4,037.99 creating a closing balance for the year of £12,339.51. About half the bank balance is set aside as a reserve to pay for a new tractor; the remainder is a result of us spending less than we paid out. However, rather than lowering plot and membership fees, it was agreed that the surplus cash could be spent on a new tractor, a four-wheel trailer, an electricity generator, a self-propelled mower and paying people to do communal work on the allotment site - such as digging new wells and improving old wells, repairing and creating new well heads, distributing the contents of the rubble banks and digging out the old pond.

Action JC to research better-quality models of tractor without drive belt in the £4,000 to £6,000 price range and also 4-wheeled trailers then organise joint visits to mower suppliers with other committee members. MW to look into the costs of electricity generators.

2 Railway matters

Network Rail's (NR) plans for the new bridges are to be submitted to the planning department shortly. NR is hoping to have planning consent by May 2014 and hope to start work on the new bridges in August with a view to having the new bridges in place by September. It was agreed that we only need one lockable gate on the ramp bridge and that it should be located at the top of the ramp bridge. The new car park will have 12 spaces and steps up to the railway bridge. We need the council to provide a 'TGAA private car park sign'. It was suggested that members could display their membership cards on their dashboards to show that they were legitimate car-park users.

Action TH to communicate our requirements to NR and Oxford City Council as appropriate.

3 Spring newsletter

TH has already written copy about railway matters.

Action VW to write copy on the AGM, the plot inspection and waiting list and the plant sale. JC to provide copy on the Harvest supper and photographic competition, the communal compost and bonfire and a progress report on the bees including number of hives and yield of honey.

4 Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on Tuesday 25th March 2014 with the same agenda as last year.

Action JC will report on the committee's plans for spending on equipment and maintenance as part of the Treasurer's report.

5 Any other business

Hens A prospective plot holder had raised the possibility of keeping hens on the allotment site. It was agreed that we would have no objection to hens being kept provided the rules regarding the welfare of hens were followed although none of the committee would be required to police the rules.

Federation meetings JC and VW have been attending these for the last four years or so and would now like to share the job with the rest of the committee. VW will ask for volunteers when notified of the next meeting.

Pollarding JC to drop a note to the council regarding getting the pollarding of the trees next to Port Meadow completed.

The meeting ended at 12.25pm