

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held at 10.30 am on Tuesday 6th March 2015 at 23 Chalfont Road, Oxford.

Present: Tony Hollander (chairman); Neil MacLennan (deputy chairman); Virginia Wallis (secretary); Bob Crabtree (treasurer); Jonathan Clark (website and machinery); Tim Halliday (shop); Michael Wheale (compost); Vibeke Mannion.

Apologies: Carol Jarvis (lettings secretary); Pete Jarvis (pest control).

1 Autumn newsletter

The Autumn newsletter will cover: Railway updates (TonyH); the state of the bees and the bee-friendly garden including a link to the RHS list of bee-friendly plants (JC); work on trees (VW); the mowing team (TonyH); Thanks to people who hold equipment-shed and Port Meadow gate keys and how to get in touch with them (JC); compost and bonfire with a request for bonfire volunteers (MW); plant sale (VW); shop (TimH); seed discount scheme and potatoes (VW); harvest supper and photo competition (JC). Contributions to VW by Sunday 11th October 2015 at the latest.

2 Railway updates

Following JC's chasing of Scottish and Southern Electricity (SSE), we have now received £1,100 in financial compensation for the disruption caused by SSE when re-laying their cable. Network Rail (NR) may also pay us £2,000 in compensation for misplacing their fence and encroaching on our land. The installation of the new railway bridge will be much more complicated than we were given to believe in part due to the fact that no equipment or machinery is allowed on Port Meadow. Works – including rebuilding both the boundary wall of the Waterside houses and the TGAA car park area wall, installing a crane to lift the new bridge into place, installing the side bridge to the allotment site, grading and resurfacing paths and the new car park among other things – will all take about nine months. Works will start in December and will go on until August 2016 during which time the public footpath to Port Meadow will be closed. We will still be able to use the level crossing while works are going on.

Action: JC to locate email in which the £2,000 compensation figure from NR was mentioned.

3 Shop policy and finance

TimH has taken over running the shop and was welcomed to the committee. He will follow VM's pricing policy of making the sale price of stock 20% more than the cost price including VAT. The shop now has eight regular shopkeepers and five volunteers willing to help out as and when. TimH will not be taking over the huge job of organising individual potato orders for TGAA members but does intend to have sacks of the four most popular varieties of potato – Charlotte, Désirée, Lady Crisp, Pink Fir Apple – on sale in the shop from mid-February.

4 Lettings

There are currently seven people on the waiting list and no vacant plots. We have not yet used the new 'three consecutive letters and you are out' rule.

5 Shed repairs

Action: JC to help TonyH with repairs to the shared-equipment shed.

6 Harvest supper

This year's harvest supper will take place on Saturday 21st November 2015 and will include the

results of the photo competition for which there have so far been no entries.

7 AOB

Bee-friendly garden VW to organise planning meeting and make signs for the new rubble bank.

Pallets JC to ask Johnson Buildbase for a consignment of wooden pallets

Skip JC to order a skip.

Ponds Both ponds need to be cleared out and now is the best time of year to do it. It could be worth looking into the pond scheme run by the RSPB. TonyH to engage Brian Haynes to do the pond-clearing work. Excavated soil will be put on the bee-friendly plot.

The meeting ended at 11.40pm