

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting which was held at 23, Chalfont Road on May 6th at 7.30pm.

Present: Tony Hollander (chairman), John Porter (treasurer), Kate Lack (secretary), Vibeke Mannion (lettings secretary), Carol Jarvis (lettings secretary), Peter Jarvis (co-opted member, pest control).

Apologies: Neil Maclellan (vice-chairman), Stuart Skyte (website and social)

1. No matters arising.
2. **Access** – TH advised the committee that Phil and Jim School had changed plans for the triangle of land via which TGAA members currently access their allotments. It was now proposed to retain the car park where it was and turn the triangle land into a wild life corner. Access to the TGAA and railway would be provided for by a fenced off track around the perimeter of the area from Aristotle Lane to the railway crossing.

The funding from the City Council was now available for security fencing around the TGAA site and the work was to be carried out imminently. Lockable gates would also be provided which it was hoped would improve security and reinforce the message to non TGAA members that the site is for private allotment use only.

There was general discussion about the matter of the application by Chris Goodall to have the path from Aristotle Lane across the railway line and into the Trap Grounds Allotment site declared a public right of way. Chris Goodall joined the committee meeting at 8.00 pm, having been invited by TH in order to help the discussion and clarify for the committee his purpose for pursuing this application since there is some apprehension on the part of the committee that the railway authorities, in the interest of health and safety, might close down the level crossing if it was declared a public right of way. Past maps show that a public pathway existed before the railway was laid. At present the bridge across the railway provided an alternative route to Port Meadow. There was discussion about flooding at the Port Meadow access points but since the TGAA Port Meadow gate access is also often flooded it was not clear how a public right of way would assist this problem. CG advised the committee that the hearing was scheduled by the County Council for 2011, having been applied for in 2002.

The committee agreed to approach Anthony Roberts of the City Council to discuss flooding at the Port Meadow gate and the viability/feasibility of constructing a culvert under the path and raising/upgrading the present path.

3. **Plant sale** - Carol and Peter Jarvis reported that members now know about the sale to be held on May 25th and that three people so far had offered help.
4. **Trading shed** – VM reported that it continued to be busy. She had taken £460 in trade since Christmas and had recently spent £960 on stock. She had a rota of helpers and everything was running very satisfactorily.
5. **Carpets on allotments** – JP reported that TGAA had spent £700 on skips recently which were largely filled with carpets. The committee agreed that carpets as weed suppressants should be banned from all allotments. Members to be informed about this by email and hard copy for those not on email.

Action KL

6. **Dogs** – JP concerned about dogs on the site that were still being allowed to run free. The committee reiterated the policy that all dogs were to be kept on leads and that members were to be reminded of this. **Action KL**
7. **Children** – the committee agreed that TGAA members should be reminded of the danger of allowing children to cross at the railway crossing, even when accompanied by an adult. For reasons of safety and avoiding the attention of the railway authorities (see Access), members bringing children to the site should be strongly encouraged to access the site via the railway bridge.
Action KL
8. **Big Lottery Fund** – KL brought this to the attention of the committee. There was a government initiative to encourage local food for local people and grants were now available for communities to promote this. As a start, the committee agreed to have an autumn sale of produce for the general public to be held out of the Trading Shed to which members could donate their surplus produce. It was agreed that an application for a grant was not necessary at the moment.
9. **Summer barbecue party** – To be held July 5th between 6 and 10 in the evening on the pond site.
10. **AOB** **Shed/cage/felling of trees policy** – to be posted onto the website.
Machinery – John Ashby now supervising and managing maintenance and loan of machinery. No problems reported.
Mowing rota – no problems reported. A satisfactory team of members participating.
Posting of committee meeting minutes onto website – Committee approved this suggestion by Kate Lack.

The meeting ended at approximately 9.45 pm