

Minutes of the extraordinary TGAA Committee meeting held at 11.00 on Monday 12th August 2019 at 23 Chalfont Road, Oxford.

Present: Tony Hollander (chairman); Neil MacLennan (deputy chairman); Bob Crabtree (treasurer); Virginia Wallis (secretary and lettings secretary); Chris Beckett (shop); Jonathan Clark (website and machinery); Michael Wheale (compost).

Apologies: Roger Mumby-Croft (lettings secretary).

Trap Ground Allotments water works

The main reason for calling the extraordinary committee meeting was to decide whether to accept NMc's proposal to spend £2,216 on getting Andy Dixon to drill a 6 – 8m deep borehole on the allotment site before going ahead with the larger project to provide piped water to the whole of the allotment site. Thanks to NMc for circulating notes on costs, pipework schematic and Trap Grounds Allotment Watering Scheme prior to the meeting.

The reason for drilling the borehole now is so that preliminary tests can be done on how much and at what rate water can be delivered and also to check that the water is not polluted. The results of these tests will establish whether it would be appropriate to proceed with the larger project. If we didn't go ahead, the money spent would not be wasted as we would have a secure source of water and a pump could be fitted to the borehole to give easy access to it. After much discussion about whether it was worth spending the money now, it was unanimously agreed that the borehole drilling work should go ahead and that the ideal location would be behind the allotment shop which would act as a stand for the five-tonnes water tank needed for the proposed gravity-fed system. If behind the allotment shop isn't a possibility, alternative positions are plots 100, 103 and 117es. It was pointed out that, in accordance with our new lease, we may need to get the council's permission to put a tank on top of the shop.

Action: NMc to ask Stuart Fitzsimmons for permission for the water tank(done).

Funding the water works

Based on current costings for the pipework system, it would not be possible to fund the entire project solely from the TGAA bank account. With money set aside for a possible new mower, there would be £10,000 spare for the water project. This could be supplemented with grants – whether from the council or Thames Water (as with Botley Road allotments). Another option would be to make a one-off charge of £100 per half plot or alternatively double plot and membership fees for two years.

Action: NMc to draw up fully costed proposals for both the larger pipework project and just fitting a pump to the borehole for discussion at the next committee meeting at 11.00 on 15th October 2019. NMc also to find out if the current costings include VAT.

AOB

Shed A new plot holder asked permission to put up a 6ft by 8ft shed on her half plot which was given on the understanding that the shed would be placed at least a metre from the main path.

Trees The plot holders of 120e and 114w have asked for a large willow to be cut back or taken down.

Action: VW to ask members if there are any other trees in need of attention.

The drinks and nibbles event at the Lord Mayor's Parlour will be attended by TH and NMc.

ODFAA meeting on 24th September 2019. VW is due to attend but will be on holiday so it was suggested that RM-C go in her place.

Wells Given the decision to proceed with drilling a borehole, it was agreed we would no longer engage to improve well provision at sites identified by MW and TH.

Shop CB is stepping down from managing the shop and also from the committee.

Action: VW to email members to find a replacement for CB.

The meeting ended at 12.35

