

Minutes of the TGAA Committee meeting held at 11.00 on Tuesday 18th February 2020 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); Mike Godley and Robin Nicholas (water sub-committee).

Apologies: Roger Mumby-Croft (lettings secretary).

Matters arising

Further to the action points completed since the committee meeting on 15th October 2019:

- VW has to update the TGAA rules in line with the recently received draft rules from ODFAA and other rule changes for agreement at the AGM (as per existing TGAA rules);
- Adam Shea (son of plot holder Ellie Barnes) has not been available for work on the allotment site and so the wild flower meadow area has not been mown;
- Tree pollarding on the boundary with Burgess Field was scheduled to begin on 14th October 2019 but did not happen;
- As the tree surgeon's quotation to deal with the 17 nuisance trees in need of removal was deemed too expensive, TH will engage David Haynes to do as much of the work as possible. However, given the saturated state of the allotment site this may not be possible until next autumn;
- VW will alert the membership to the fact that the shop is due to re-open on Sunday 1st March and will include a link to the shop's price list;
- THE NEXT TGAA COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 11.00 ON TUESDAY 16TH JUNE 2020.

Water plans update

Thanks to NMc for circulating the Trap Grounds irrigation notes and to Mike Godley and Robin Nicholas for attending the committee meeting.

Since the special water plans meeting held on 24th November 2019 (for which minutes appear not to be available), 82 TGAA members voted in favour of (and one against) going ahead with the proposed water project. So far the Treasurer has received £7,000 in loans from generous TGAA members.

The main change to the water project since that meeting is the proposal that steel girders – rather than second-hand wooden sleepers – should be used to support the water tank on top of the allotment shop. Although this could add around £1,000 to the overall cost, it was agreed that using steel was preferable as long as the tank was positioned at the other end of the shop from its doors. As outside contractors will be used to position the steel framework and lift the water tank on to the shop roof, this work can go ahead as soon as possible. Work by TGAA volunteers, however, should not progress until risk assessments have been undertaken and the insurance position has been clarified.

Action: NMc to continue to seek clarification on the insurance issue by contacting the National Allotment Association for clarification on insurance for working parties.

Action: JC to add MG and RN to the TGAA Committee Google group.

Action: MG to engage the company from whom he has a quote for the steel works of £1,200 to £1,500.

The next step will be to mark out the route of underground pipes in preparation for the digger to come once the ground at the allotment site is sufficiently dried out. The route of the overground pipes will also need to be signalled together with the position of the 30 water troughs the siting of which will be quite labour intensive.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This year's TGAA AGM is taking place on Tuesday 24th March 2020.

AGM reports

Chairman will cover the railway path, mowing, expert pruning sessions and our new lease with OCC.

Action: In view of the fact that only eight people have so far signed up for the plum and damson pruning session in May, VW to ask for more support in order for the event not to be cancelled.

Treasurer will go through the accounts and confirm that fees – excluding the joining fee of £30 – will be doubled in 2020 and 2021.

Secretary will report back on rule changes, the various discount schemes as well as the plant sale and swap.

Shop CB to promote the benefits of shopping at the allotment shop with a reminder that the shop makes available rat boxes and poison.

Lettings secretary will cover number of plots and people on the waiting list but not the results of the spring plot inspection as this will not take place until 14th April 2020 given the current state of the allotment site.

Website and machinery will encourage the safe use of machinery and the importance of returning it in good order after use.

Compost will report back on the state of the communal compost.

AOB

Harvest supper is taking place on Saturday 7th November 2020.

Allotment Noticeboard VW to send MW new wording for the noticeboard by the Port Meadow gate.

The meeting ended at 1.05