

**Fairacres Road Allotment Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
Friday March 23th 2012, 7.30 pm  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sea Scouts Hall, Meadow Lane, Oxford

Minutes

25, present including

Jay Arden, Laurie and Jean Burrell, Sue Coles  
Claire Du Feu, Lynn Errey, Jon Piggott, Bob and Mrs Heath, Liz Hodgson, Julia Hollander, Tim  
Humphrey, Rodas Irving, Stephen Kearsey, David Morris, Mike and Bridgette Newman, Jennie Rudman, Niki  
Sporrong, Rebecca Ungakorn, Clive and Kirstin Lindley-Jones.

**Apologies for Absence:**

Larissa Wakefield, Christine Cox, J Bell, Dudley Walter, Simon Fisher.

**Minutes of 2011 were passed with the following  
amendments and queries:**

Liz Hodgson wished to add apologies for absence to the 2011 minutes.

Fencing: David Morris wanted to know what had happened about the project to raise money for new fencing. Jeremy Arden explained that the council estimated the cost at around £5000 and declined to pay. Stephen Kearsey had applied for a grant from the Coop but this was rejected.

**Treasures report (Stephen Kearsey)**

Despite of some changes in the pattern of income and expenditure the outgoings this year had been roughly the same as in previous years.

For example, losses from theft of machinery amounted to £225. On the other hand, we now have cheaper insurance from Oxford Federation (see below).

**Insurance**

We have arranged cheaper employers' liability insurance for this year with the Oxford & District Federation of Allotment Associations. As a result the Committee decided not to increase the insurance charge per allottee as had been agreed at the 2011 AGM, but to hold it at the 2011 rate. Although this will result in a surplus over the actual premium, we have been undercharging members for insurance over the past few years. Next year the situation will be reviewed. It was suggested that the rent and insurance charge could be consolidated and this will be considered.

## **Letting secretary report (Claire Du Feu)**

There are 58 people on waiting list. The latest recipient had been on the list since June 2008.

Committee action, in accordance with guidance from Oxford City Council, has led to a number of very neglected plots being relinquished and given to new tenants. The guidance also suggests taking a photographic record of neglected plots over a period of time, to show an objective record and thereby remove any personal conflict. The Guidance also suggests that plot holders who have a serious illness could give up their plots but could be placed high up on the waiting list, allowing them to recover and return to gardening.

The opinion of those in attendance suggested that all effort should be made to help support plot holders who are seriously ill so that they could keep their plots, and hopefully return to it as their health improves. This could include emailing the membership to see if someone could support them.

It was agreed that if a plot appears to be neglected, we should firstly enquire as to the health and wellbeing of the plot holder, and should support them where possible. However, where the plot holder is simply neglecting their plot, our responsibility must be to the production of food and this may mean reallocating that space to a new plot holder.

Information regarding link people will be posted on the site noticeboard and the website.

## **Chairs report: Jennie Rudman**

A very successful visit by the scouts who especially enjoyed our chickens. The pruning talks were extremely useful and a pleasure successful. We enjoyed the apple days, (thanks to David Morris).

On a sad note, the break in has been costly and stressful. Thanks to Jackie Kent who has moved away from the area, for all her hard work as letting secretary, we wish her well in her new home. We also thank Jocelyn Bell who is standing down as a trustee, for all her guidance and wealth of historical information. Also thanks to Rodas, for all of his work maintaining machinery and the shed, as well as organising a new strimmer for us all to use. Thanks also to those who donated money in lieu of working parties, almost £300 was raised.

## **Re election**

All the following were elected unanimously:

Christine Cox (Trustee)

Lynn Errey (Trustee)

Claire Du Feu (Letting)

Tim Humphrey (Committee member+ website)

All existing members re-elected

## **Website report: Tim Humphrey**

Tim has updated the website. The site address [www.fairacresallotments.org](http://www.fairacresallotments.org) is on the rent bills.

The association rules, site information and each person's link to the committee, recipes and advice will be posted there soon.

## **Site Management**

We voted to make a donation of £50 to the butterfly preservation trust, according to the wishes of Jessica Evans and Craig Rudman who ran the pruning days for free.

Should we create a raised bed for disabled gardeners? Doubts about cost and the demand and use were raised but on the other hand this might be good on a fundraising application. The committee will look into this.

A group will be formed (directed by Liz Hodgeson) to nurture plants attractive to bees. The group activities could be publicised to the membership and put on the web site.

- Drought is approaching and less grass cutting is advisable from a water and wildlife conservation of point-of-view.
- David Morris requested compost for the trees.
- Blocking holes in the fence is desirable if the appropriate materials are used.
- Bob suggested the padlock on the shed should have a hooded plate making bolt cutters ineffective.
- Bob has arranged for his son to fix the taps and leaking joints.
- Can we store the strimmer elsewhere during the winter?
- The annual change of lock combination needs to be effected.

## **Social events**

An open day is to be planned in collaboration with our local convent, and Iffley Fields resident association. Children should be monitored and specific pathways should be closed off. This means plenty of volunteers, at least 10. The committee will look into public liability insurance issue and the level of support.

## **Any Other Business.**

