

2016 4 19 ALM meeting

Draft Minutes for the Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations meeting, 19th April 2016

Attending: Federation Committee; Wendy Skinner Smith (Chair), Ian Sheppard (Vice-Chair) John Lardner (Treasurer), Tim Treacher (Competition sub-committee chairman), John Hastings (Minutes Secretary)

OCC Representatives: Ian Thompson, Stuart Fitzsimmons.

Associations; **Barracks Lane – Megan Harcourt. Lenthall Road - Colin Sharp. Old Marston Mill Lane- Christine Mitchell. Kestrel Crescent- Roy Leach. Cowmead -John Hastings. Bartlemas – Tracy Crossman. Barton Fields -Michael Evans, N Woodman. Cripsey Meadow – Wendy Skinner Smith. Cutteslowe -Ian Sheppard, B Findlay. Eden Drive – John Lardner. John Garne Way – Eric Perkins, Derek Andrews. Lower Wolvercote – Pater Mayne. Osney St Thomas – Nick Jackson. South Ward - David Allen, Sharron Murray. Spragglesea Mead – Tim Treacher. St Clements & District – Phil Baker, Trap Grounds –Virginia Wallis.**

Total of 17 associations represented.

WSS went through the minutes of the last ALM meeting. There were no matters arising.

1) IT/SF Budget 2015-2016

IT and SF presented budget report. It outlined the way the grant money had been allocated, listing the sites and what the money would be spent on. There was an ongoing problem with the collapse of a retaining wall at the Coppock Close site, with insurance companies trying to work out who has to take responsibility for the rectification work. The bridge problem at Kestral Crescent was in hand but a new bridge would not be built.

The March grant applications for 2016 were discussed at length. Some applications were for security items such as fencing and locks. SF explained that OCC capital money would be available for fencing and repairs, but not for supplying locks etc. WSS said that the grants fund was for the improvement and development of allotments. One member who's application for funds for work on a car park had been turned down, asked for reasons why. WSS said that the grants were for allotment development and their use as car parking space could be problematic. It was suggested he apply for Lottery funding.

2) Zurich Insurance

Anyone who had not filled in the required insurance forms should do so as a matter of urgency. Last year's forms could be used so long as they were signed an the appropriate person. SF stressed the need for every association to get their insurance cover up to date. JL said that he would supply SF with a list of associations that had not paid.

3) OCC site keys

IT asked for each association to supply an access key for their site to OCC. He explained that this was essential to allow access in an emergency. JH asked how many keys to sites were already held by OCC. He replied that there were two. One member asked about security of these keys and was informed that they would be kept in a secure cupboard. Another member was not happy with the possibility that the keys could be loaned to non-emergency agents such as surveyors. IT assured him that only in an emergency would the keys be released.

4) Update on planning

WSS asked about the designated land for allotments at Minchery Farm. IT said that the future of the area had been described as for growing but at the moment the piece of land was an overgrown wilderness. SF said that there was to be a resident's meeting where the use of the land would be discussed. WSS stated that the release of the land as designated allotment land was on the terms of retaining it first as allotments. If these proved unworkable further growing suggestions would be explored. This was not a matter for the residents alone to decide. At this point there was a discussion on how the site would need to be managed. It was generally agreed that the outcome of the residents meeting would probably have some bearing on how the allotments will be used and managed but that they must first be offered as allotments. At the moment Brasenose is making progress. Barton Fields is ongoing with no actual work on the allotment. There has been no progress with the Horspath site.

5) Allotment Signs

WWS said the application form for the new signs will be sent out with a final date for returns being the end of June 2016. The aim would be to allocate a sign per association.

6) ODFAA meeting with EA re Flood Alleviation Channel

WSS reported that the meeting with the EA had been very useful. The representative from the EA admitted that they had not realised the number of allotment sites that could be affected by the flood alleviation channel. Some of the larger sites, holding nearly half of all the plots in Oxford, are on the flood plain. If the flood alleviation plan were to be implemented, flood water held in the area (flood plain) to the north of Oxford would have serious consequences for allotments. WSS talked to Pete Colley, who is the person responsible for channel maintenance about removing the silt from blocked drainage ditches. His response was that it would not make a difference as water would still spill out over the surrounding land.

7) Confirm dates for future ALM meetings

The dates listed at the foot of the agenda page were accepted.

8) OAB

Virginia Wallis asked those attending to make a note of the Trap Grounds plant sale that will be held at St Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, on Sunday 22nd May 2016.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm