

2017 04 04 AGM

Draft Minutes for the Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations

Annual General Meeting 4th April 2017

Attending:

Federation Committee:

Wendy Skinner Smith (Chair) John Lardner (Treasurer) Nick Jackson (Minutes Secretary)

Associations:

Barracks Lane – Pam Wilson, Rebecca Mead

Barton Fields – M.S. Evans, Janette Washington

Cripley Meadow – Wendy Skinner Smith

East Ward – Stewart Young, Clare Ferguson

Headington Eden Drive – Mike Halliwell, John Lardner

Lenthall Road Rose Hill – Colin Sharp

Ramsay Road – Brian McMillan

Spragglesea Mead – Michael Walker, Tim Treacher

Town Furze – Mary Gill

Kestrel Crescent – Roy Leach

Fairview – Catherine Grundy, Priscilla Grant

Total 22 associations represented

Bartlemas – Susi Lee

Cow Mead – Faith Phipps, John Hastings

Cotteslowe – Ian Sheppard

Fairacres Road – Jon Piggott

Headington John Garne Way – Alan Cooper

Marston Ferry & Blackhall – George Gunn

Sorrel Road – Bill Wright, Russel Price

St Clements – P Baker

Van Diemans Lane – Samantha Chapman

Minchery Farm West – Clive Bevan

Osney, St Thomas & New Botley – Nick Jackson

1. **Welcome by the chair.**

Wendy Skinner Smith thanked all for attending. Thanks were made to Tim Treacher for all his hard work on the committee – he was re-presented with a book of allotment memories. Thanks were also made to Ian Sheppard for all his work both on the Committee in the past and in the Parks Department – he was also presented with a book.

2. **Apologies for absence.**

Cotteslowe – Bob Findlay

Headington Brasenose Farm – Bill Edwards

Marston Ferry & Blackhall – Gillian Morris Kay

Risinghurst – Jayne Wright

Ramsay Road – Bob Benthall

Trap Grounds – Virginia Wallis

Sorrel Road – Sylvia Cann

3. **Minutes of the last AGM 21 April 2016.**

These had been circulated to the membership and were accepted as a true account of the meeting. There were no Matters Arising.

4. **Annual Report.**

The chair asked for questions on the Annual Report which was circulated – there were no questions.

Some figures (e.g. grants from Oct 16) were not previously available but have been added into the Annual Report.

Note: Working with the Parks Department we now have a firmer understanding that allotment money is different from other reactive maintenance money – it is solely for allotment use (and not returned to the Council as in previous years). This means we get a better share of the available funds.

Fencing Capital Project figures have only just arrived but will be added into final version of the report.

WSS has spotted the new signs on several sites around the city, and hopes all the other sites have put theirs up. Sorrel Road reported the theft of their sign already.

Thanks were due to John Lardner for standing in while WSS was away.

5. Annual accounts and treasurers report.

JL summarised his report by reading the front cover page of the accounts documents. Copies of the accounts had been circulated.

Income this year came solely from member subscriptions.

Administration costs have gone up – this includes photocopying insurance documents etc.

One event (Soil talk) cost around £400 – mainly the cost of hiring the hall. It was suggested that ODFAA investigate using Community Centres instead of incurring high costs of hiring Town Hall for talks – we will look at the West Oxford Community Centre as a possible venue for a talk in the autumn. **A1**

The costs for the new signage came in after accounts were audited.

The allotment competition last year turned out not to have cost anything – equivalent funds from OCC (c. £1,000) will be added to grants pot as there is no competition this year.

Note: Subscription costs for ODFAA should be viewed as just that – it is not an ‘insurance cost’ as this is paid separately by ODFAA on behalf of the member associations and the cost is then reimbursed by OCC as determined by the lease.

Insurance costs have gone up this year and subsequently the money available for grants will be less. It is likely that these will rise in future and after the renegotiation of the lease in 2021 it is possible that insurance will not be covered. ODFAA will need to plan for this as on current subscription rates ODFAA could not cover the costs of the insurance.

There is £3,590 in the bank at the moment.

The accounts were proposed and seconded as a true record and were accepted.

6. Election of Officers and Committee members.

The existing officers and committee members were unanimously elected, unopposed:

- Chair – Wendy Skinner Smith
- Treasurer – John Lardner
- Minutes Secretary – Nick Jackson

Upon appealing to the membership for further volunteers the following were proposed and elected:

- Janet Woodman [Barton Fields]
- Roy Leach [Kestrel Crescent]

7. AGM item:

Suggestions were sought for 2017 talks and ALM themed sessions:

- Using the Oxfordshire Community Payback Team – several Associations have experience of this.
- ‘Worm watch’ surveys
- Companion planting
- Oxford University Botanic Gardens – on their new planting schemes

8. AOB.

No other items were raised

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.15pm