

## WITNEY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 13 May 2015

Present: Geoff (Acting Chair), Margaret, Lynne, Claire, David, Timothy and Val

1. **Apologies** – Mary Killick, Barrie Fenton
2. **The committee welcome three new members:** Claire, David and Timothy and thanked retiring committee members Maggie, Peter and Penny for their work on the committee.
3. **Matters arising from AGM** - A number of items from the AGM were noted by Mary from the agenda.
  - I. Rabbit Fencing – It was agreed that it should be possible for WTC to provide fencing suitable for deterring rabbits. Although WTC have said this work will be done by them next year, the committee is keen to encourage WTC to subcontract the work this year if they are unable to complete themselves. Claire will 'spec out' requirements for fencing and contact possible contractors for completing the work. Secretary and Mary (chair) will discuss this option with John Hickman. When the work has been completed the LS allotmentees will be reminded to shut the gate to keep rabbits out.
  - II. Parking on LS – It was agreed that adjoining plot holders would be kept informed of progress on converting plot 1 and 26 to parking as this becomes relevant.
  - III. LS75 has only been uncultivated for 1 season not for 2 years as stated at AGM.
  - IV. Honey bees may not be kept on WAA plots due to health and safety issues. Plot holders can encourage wild bees, bumble bees and solitary bees, with the use of bee hotels and bumble bee nest boxes. Wild bees are known to not be as aggressive as honey bees and although they form large aggregations they do not swarm.
  - V. Keeping of chickens (and rabbits). Should plot holders wish to keep chickens then WAA is keen that every consideration should be given to animal welfare (to the RSPCA standard). New tenancy agreements will be altered to reflect this. Due consideration should be given to the fact that the plots are open to other wildlife, (Foxes, red kites, rats etc) and chickens could suffer as a result of being kept on the allotment sites.
4. **Setting up of private facebook group for WAA allotment holders.** The difference between a facebook page and group was discussed and it was considered that a facebook group could be created by the group for WAA members to share local information. ( Should they so wish.) This group should be moderated by a committee member or someone coopted onto the committee for this purpose. Richard Mackenzie will be asked by the secretary whether he will be co-opted for this purpose. David also agreed to co – moderate, bearing in mind he cannot access facebook during working hours.
5. **Recruiting of new Secretary.** As no new secretary has been recruited it has been agreed to share the current role of Secretary between current committee members. The following roles have been created:

- I. **Press and Liaison**– **Geoff** will undertake the role of liaising with other bodies and formal communications.
- II. **Website administration** – **Val** will continue to manage the website
- III. **Minutes and Administration** – **Claire** will take minutes of meetings and produce the agenda for forthcoming meetings.
- IV. **Claire** will also undertake other general administration.
- V. **Membership** – Lynne will manage the waiting list and list of members. Maggie has handed over this information to Lynne and she will work with Margaret for Hailey, Barry for Newlands and Mary for LS to allocate plots.

**David** has agreed to create a dropbox for storage of electronic files.

It was agreed that no committee members would have their addresses published for WAA contacts and alternatives would be investigated (official PO BOX and/or actual mail box at Town Hall for plot holders to pay fees for example)

6. Any Other Business – Val asked for updates for the website of the map of plots.

**Dates of next meetings: agenda items to Claire.**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at the Blue Boar 7.30

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept at the Blue Boar 7.30