

# Witney Allotment Association

## Minutes of meeting held on: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Secretary – R Martin

<b>Members present</b>	Chair: Mary Killick/ Geoff Banner/ Val Fisher/ Dave Barber/ Tim Brown/ Claire /Lynne Berry/ Row Martin/ Cllr. Duncan Enright – Town Council Rep.		
<b>Notes to be brought forward:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o D Enright invited to meeting.</li> <li>o New proposed tenancy agreement to be discussed at this meeting.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Action Required and by whom</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	Barrie and Margaret	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of meeting and actions</b>	<p><b>DB</b> to make directories change in the mins.  <b>TB</b> to set up Facebook page (Mary and Dave to have access- each site to have their own group.            Lakeside set up.            Newland Group set up.            Strimmer for use of all allotments which is robust.  <b>MK</b> to enquire about a robust one from John Hickman on WTC.</p> <p>Rent to be rebated to tenant for the work he has done on uncultivated allotments which has saved the Association hundreds of pounds. Some Lakeside tenants at end of tenancy have left plots in a mess. Contractor costs to bring them to a cultivable state have been extensive this year. <b>GB</b> suggested-an invoice be sent to the prior tenants.</p>	<p>DB</p> <p>TB to advertise</p> <p>MK</p> <p>MK</p> <p>MK</p>
<b>3</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Not in this meeting.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Waiting List</b>	<p>69 people on the waiting list – top 11 who are waiting for Newland – <b>LB</b> asked all 11 if they would take others sites. One has taken Lakeside plot.            Waiting list down from 120 in May 2015.            Lakeside has got one <b>half plot 44a</b> available following death of tenant-available in October.  <b>Newland</b> – No spare plot s – top person on the list has been waiting 4 years.  <b>Lakeside</b> waiting is around 2 years.  <b>Hailey Road</b> –New Tenants in <b>Plot 11</b>.            Tenant in <b>plot 6a</b> has told WAA she will be giving up tenancy  <b>Plot 41b</b> needs to be used by Council for work on boundary wall. Will hopefully be available to let in the spring.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Weed Watch reports</b>	<p><b>Lakeside</b> – issued tenancy terminations and 15 plots have new tenants.  <b>Hailey Road</b> – <b>Plot 33</b> tenant has had a further</p>	

		<p>letter. Tenancy states at least 50% of plot must be under cultivation – letter to tenant to inform of 50% cultivated by 30<sup>th</sup> April or tenancy will be terminated.</p> <p>Secretary to suggest swop or share scheme.</p> <p><b>Plot 37b</b> tenant has cleared the plot. Secretary to send letter to tenant.</p> <p><b>Newland – plot 23a</b> – the site is not maintained</p> <p><b>GB</b> to communicate with tenant.</p> <p><b>Plot 8a and 9a</b> both have new tenants.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>GB</p>
6	<b>Reports or concerns from site reps.</b>	It has been reported that Thames Water have installed a meter on the Hailey Road site.	
7	<b>Matters Arising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>New Tenancy Agreement</b> – to be carried over to next meeting.</li> <li>o <b>Reduction of the Newland Hedge and Bullace</b> – to be carried over to next meeting.</li> <li>o <b>Cycle racks</b> – to be carried over to next meeting.</li> <li>o <b>Toilets on sites</b> – to be carried over to next meeting.</li> <li>o <b>Website</b> – to be carried over to next meeting.</li> </ul>	
8	<b>A.O.B.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o G Butler HR would like a bigger plot if one becomes available.</li> <li>o The committee agreed to the request of a tenant to keep quail on plot 19 – Newland. reminding tenant that the birds must be kept according to the welfare standards set out by the RSPCA.</li> </ul>	RM

**Cllr. Duncan Enright** rep. for TC for Witney East – he is the representative who is associated with WAA. Negotiations about new plots on the Curbridge Road development are taking place (where the garden centre was) to be developed by the builder under Section 106 agreement the intention will be to hand over running to the WAA.

**MK asked when this is likely to happen?**

Any time as the signatures are going ahead – possibly starting building in 2016. Planners at District Council will be in touch.

**GB** suggested that as it is near housing then less parking space may be needed than at Lakeside, possibly a communal parking space, to give more room for plots.

**DE** informed us of District Council website has a new planning database to find documents re this project.

**DM** suggests that WAA will not see this until the last brick is laid – however if they are around the Curbridge then it may not alleviate our waiting list. Phil Shaw is the main planning person and **DE** suggested WAA write to him to ask what we can know re timescale/water troughs/compost toilets.

**What will the set aside money that has been saved from Madley site used for ?**

Possible fencing/ troughs and land (£300,000) **GB** said it was more than that (£450,000 in c.2000) and he thought it was given to buy land for allotments.

**DM** said that we should be using the money to buy land but no one is releasing land for allotments.

**DE asked - Where would you want to get land?**

We need to get more land in Newland area really as that is where the demand is.

**VF what about land near the A40 ?**

**DE** said he had a long term vision of bits of extra development – some along side Manor Road (a field) and besides the new cemetery – plan to have an entrance off the main road. **DE** informed WAA that If they were to develop this area the land owner has implied they would maybe give some land for allotments.

**DE informed us about Park Road allotment site.**

It is not part of WAA as it was not land owned by WTC – however **DE** suggested that WAA may be offered that allotment site now. Rumours suggest that Cottsway are thinking of building houses there but **DE** said he has been assured this is not the case.

**GB** said if they want us to take it over then we would only do so on a peppercorn rent.

**DE** is going to ask Cottsway if they would be willing to hand it over the WAA

**DE - Can I ask about turnover of plots – what happens? Do you allow some to share with others in Witney?**

**MK** Explained the system we currently use.

**Do you operate a apprenticeship system?**

**GB** Reported on our raised bed project.

**DE could some of the land that belongs to Council have a few raised beds?**

WAA said it has to be fenced and safe if that was the case – there may be some areas of land that could accommodate this?

**DE** felt if it had to be fenced etc. he thought then it could not be used as general public use.

**DM** suggested community space which could be an annexe to a main plot.

**DE – Quail** – Oxford City does not allow any animals who are very stern about risks. **DE** said WTC will not determine which livestock can be kept on allotments and will forward responsibility to WAA.

**DM** would have preferred if the WTC had given us a more specific answer.

**DE** will visit allotment sites and see various plots.

**Meeting finished: 9.15pm**

**Next meeting: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Blue Boar 7.30pm**