

18th March 2026

Minutes for a meeting of the Witney Allotments Association North (WAA North) Committee held on 18th March 2026 at 6:30pm at Diane's house.

Item	Discussion	Actor
1	<p>Present: Brian Bloomfield, Richard Bourget, Diane Newsham, Rosie Trinder Apologies: Councillor Rachel Crouch</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2026 were approved. DN will arrange for the minutes to be added to the website.</p>	DN
3	<p>Matters arising There were no matters arising.</p>	
4	<p>Financial update DN shared the Treasurer's update from the WAA C of M meeting on 5th March in which the Treasurer advised that the balance, as at 5th March, was £13,359.40.</p>	
5	<p>Waiting list There are currently 230 names on the Waiting List.</p> <p>The issue of the response time of people contacted when a plot becomes available was discussed. It was agreed that if people do not respond within 14 days, they will be considered no longer interested. At this time of year, delays in re-letting plots can cause the plot to deteriorate and potentially become overgrown, especially if we then need to contact the next person on the list.</p>	
6	<p>Site Reps Reports</p> <p>a. Hailey Road – BB Plot 4A is still available as the person who it was offered to has now changed their mind. A plot has become available following the death of the tenant. It is a very large plot which will easily divide into two good half plots. The granddaughter of the plot holder really wants to take on the plot. At the moment she is 11th on the Waiting List, but as we would still be able to offer the other half plot to a new tenant also, the committee all agreed that there was good justification to allow this on this occasion. RT will send the next names on the list to BB. The tenant of Plot ** has informed BB that he was seriously ill last year and that is why his plot has deteriorated. He has agreed to have the plot back up to standard in four weeks. Plot **B has advised that he has a new email address and has been told to improve his plot and make his rent payment. The ongoing troublesome plots have had nothing done to them at all.</p> <p>b. Newlands – RT Plot ** are vacating their plot at the end of the month as they are struggling to maintain it.</p>	RT

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	<p>Plot ** borders are overgrown and starting to encroach upon neighbouring properties which has caused a problem in the past. As the tenant does not feel it is her responsibility to manage the site border, RT plans to meet with her to offer her a vacant plot that is in the middle of the site.</p> <p>RT advised that deer are still coming into the site and one deer got stuck in part of the fencing. It was freed safely. This further underlines the need for the fencing to be completed but until the new Estates Manager is in post this is unlikely to happen.</p> <p>RT requested a battery strimmer to aid with keeping the site tidy. It will be stored in the Asgard shed. The committee agreed and RT will research for a suitable option.</p> <p>c. Windrush Place – RB Plot 43 has been re-let. Plot 42, an immaculate plot with polytunnel, is available to re-let. Plot 23 is being restored to a full plot and will then be ready to let out again. DN reported that the recent winds blew down a greenhouse and polytunnel on plots near the pedestrian gate. Both tenants were advised and have cleared the damaged items.</p>	
7	<p>Structure Applications Plot 6 Hailey Road Greenhouse Plot 17A Newland Replacement shed Plot 13B Newland Shed Plot 9B Newland Polytunnel</p> <p>The above applications were approved by the Committee and plot holders will be advised accordingly by the site reps.</p>	BB / RT
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Weed letters As the Lakeside committee have expressed that they do not wish to share the weed letters that they send to tenants, DN agreed to come up with some draft letters for the WAA North committee's approval, with a view to eventually getting them on the website. There will be three letters – a first warning explaining the problem, what we expect to see and in what timescale; a second letter will be sent four weeks later if there have not been adequate improvements, again giving the tenant a timescale to comply; and the final letter will be an eviction letter.</p> <p>Proposal for the AGM Following on from the discussion that members had expressed concerns that the current structure of the C of M did not democratically represent the plot holders of WAA (North), DN advised that a proposal was read out to the C of M meeting held on 5th March regarding a change to the Constitution to allow for each committee to have it's own treasurer with a view to moving towards each committee having financial autonomy for their own site(s).</p>	DN

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	<p>The proposal does not suggest a split of the WAA but is following what has already been agreed in the Constitution – that two committees run alongside one another and indeed this has been set in place during the past year. The natural progression from this is that each committee should eventually take responsibility for their own finances. Neither committee will be walking away from WAA but will be continuing to operate under the WAA umbrella.</p> <p>It was recognised that time would be needed to implement this and for the C of M to agree a formula for how to share out the money in the WAA account fairly between the two committees. This could be worked upon at the next C of M meeting if approved by members at the AGM. It was agreed that a motion to propose this would be put to members at the AGM with a view to a new WAA (North) Treasurer working alongside the WAA Treasurer and attending C of M meetings.</p> <p>Plot holder's rubbish RB advised the Committee that visits to the Council tip not only have to be booked in advance, but you also have to state what you are disposing off. Certain items may not be permitted to be disposed of locally, so RB was concerned that, if a plot needed to be cleared, we might have problems disposing of some items abandoned on the plot. With this in mind RB said that we should make it clear to tenants that they need to ensure that anything they bring on to their plot is necessary, suitable and is their responsibility to remove.</p> <p>Concessionary rate At the recent C of M meeting, it was agreed that the concessionary rate will be kept in line the State Pension age. As the State Pension age is rising this year, plot holders will need to be 67 to qualify for the reduced plot fees.</p> <p>Discount cards DN advised that the five garden centres from previous years have agreed to continue offering members the same discount on plants purchased. DN will now order the discount cards for 2026/27.</p> <p>NSALG fees DN advised that the NSALG have been sending all correspondence relating to WAA (North) to the Witney Allotment Association email address despite being advised of the new email. When DN contacted the NSALG she was told that the fees for 2026 had been paid. However, the WAA Treasurer has confirmed that no payment had been made. DN will contact them again to resolve the situation.</p>	DN
9	<p>Date of Next Meeting Date to be arranged.</p>	

Diane Newsham
Secretary WAA(North)