

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting of the Cripsey meadow Allotment Association held on May 12th 2004

Tim Cann of the Oxford and District federation of Allotment Associations chaired the meeting initially. A list was circulated for people to sign - 32 allotment holders were present

Susannah Pressel introduced herself and explained that she was there as an observer in her role as City Councillor for the area. She pointed out that as no one had informed the City Council of the names of the new committee elected at the AGM in February the Council does not recognise the new committee. She is anxious to help the association to sort out its problems but is aware that if it fails the city council could take over.

It was established that only one officer elected in February was actually present.

Discussion of current problems

People have been intimidated

The authority of the treasurer was challenged

Attempts have been made to take over plots which already had tenants

Animals have damaged plots and plants

Items have been removed from allotments and later found on other allotments

General points raised during the discussion

There is a fear of intimidation which is resulting in people leaving the Association but a softly-softly approach to resolving differences was strongly advocated

The accounts must be audited: Alison Campbell agreed to find someone from outside the Association who would look over the accounts and sign them off. They have always been presented at previous AGMs but not audited.

There is a discrepancy between the rules of the present lease and the association rules. The lease states that animals should not be kept on allotments. There was a feeling at this meeting that following this line was necessary as compromise and accommodation of differing views had led to many problems.

The City Council can only intervene if the Association asks it to. It was agreed this would probably not help the situation.

An effective committee must be elected at this meeting as the Association has to take responsibility.

People are appreciative of the efforts which have been made to clear brambles which had not been done until recently but it must be noted that clearance must not take place when nesting birds will be disturbed.

The Association's constitution allows for a properly convened extraordinary General Meeting to express no confidence in the committee and to elect a new one.

Alison Campbell proposed that given the events of the last 3 months (since Feb AGM) the present meeting has no confidence in the current committee and a new committee should be elected. (Unfortunately there was only one member (Carolyn) present from the new committee.) This was seconded by Nicholas Shrimpton. There were 31 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

The acting chairperson called for nominations for the officers and committee members.

The following people were elected unanimously:

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| Chairperson | Jamie Wood | Plot 45 | Nominated by Carolyn Dutton seconded by Robin Ostle |
| Vice Chair | Patrick Watt | Plot 3 | Nominated by Jamie Wood seconded by Carolyn Dutton |
| Treasurer | Carolyn Dutton | Plots 9,64,65 | Nominated by Jane Mollison seconded by Sheila Allen |
| Secretary | Sheila Allen | Plot 12 | Nominated by Jamie Wood seconded by Alison Campbell |

7 further members of the committee were proposed, seconded and elected unanimously

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Wendy Skinner Smith | Plot 40.41 |
| Alison Campbell | Plot 13 |
| Toby Buxton | Plot 25/26 |
| David Bird | Plot 72 |
| Stan Lodowski | Plot 1, 1A |
| Jeremy Meigh | Plots 153,160,161 |

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It was noted Stan used to attend meetings of the Federation but he has not been informed of any recently. Tim Cann urged the Association to join the Southern region of the National Federation of Allotment Associations as the Association might appreciate assistance from this body.

It was agreed the first step was to draw up a new constitution following the lease more closely. It was suggested the committee might meet the old committee to discuss grievances.

All incidents of harassment vandalism and intimidation should be reported to the secretary and a record kept of such incidents. We were also encouraged to report incidents to the Area Beat Officer Karl Ralph
Badge No 4902 telephone 08458 505505

A skip will be organised

A letter will be circulated to all allotment holders summarising this meeting.