

Cripley Meadow Allotment Association
Minutes of the AGM held on March 16th 2006

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the 33 members present and Susanna Pressel (local Councillor) with a slide presentation showing all the plots. All members were congratulated for working hard to improve their plots.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Toby Buxton, Belinda Allan, Peter Brandt.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on March 16th 2005 were approved.

It was noted that most of the items listed under "Future plans" had been achieved.

Members were asked to look out for a planning application re. Vodafone mast.

4. Annual Accounts and Budget for 2007

The Treasurer presented the accounts, commenting particularly on the level of donations last year when people were encouraged to make donations in anticipation of rent increase approved at the 2005 AGM for 2006. She also highlighted: the closure of the Skipton bank account; equipment and sales; black plastic used by the Association and that the extra 20p of subscription was for Federation membership. The accounts had been approved by an Independent Examiner. The meeting voted unanimously to adopt the accounts. The main comments on the Budget concerned the expectation of a reduced grant income but increased rental income. The large sum set aside for contract mowing was explained as the 2 committee members who did most of it last year cannot continue. Susanna Pressel informed members that the Jericho Street Fair will take place on 10th June; this will be the Association's main fund-raising focus. Members were encouraged to pot up seedlings /cuttings now.

5. Annual Report

The Chair and members made brief comments on sections of the Report. Comments included: an expectation all would keep the Rules; apology for the state of the paths (they need serious work); problems with brambles on paths; reminder to members to keep their headlands cut and clear; reminder that members can write or speak to a committee member if they wish a matter to be raised at the next monthly committee meeting; report on negotiations in progress with Berkeley Homes to remove the huge pile of rubbish and disused ground rent reduction. Ed Todd proposed a vote of thanks to Wendy for all her hard work over the preceding 12 months.

6. Elections

The following people were elected:

Chair: Wendy Skinner Smith (proposed - Alison Campbell, seconded - Doke Ostle)

Vice-Chair: Ed Todd (proposed - Wendy Skinner Smith, seconded - Sheila Allen)

Secretary: Sheila Allen (proposed - Sally Gillard, seconded - Ed Todd)

Treasurer: Alison Campbell (proposed - W. Skinner Smith, seconded - Gerry Clarke)

Membership secretary: Carolyn Dutton (proposed W Skinner Smith, seconded Doke Ostle)

Other Committee members: Sally Gillard, Gina Cowen, John Sivell, Andrew Honey

All officers and committee members were elected unanimously.

7. AGM Items for discussion

a) Revised Constitution and Rules: This was mainly a tidying up operation, ensuring consistency of terminology for legal reasons. Members were shown some amendments suggested by a member. These were changes of verb /sense.

Rule 10 was discussed at length and it was agreed to change the maximum height of **fruit trees** to 10' provided root and shade fall (which are roughly equal to spread of branches) was contained within the plot boundary. Alison proposed adoption of the new Constitution and Rules for use in 2006. This was seconded by Tony Clear and agreed unanimously.

Working Party suggestion. This was discussed and it was agreed to see what happened this year before adopting suggestion of paying £10 instead of doing at least 2 hours work. Members help would be noted but there will be no 'naming and shaming'. This would be reviewed next year. Notices about working parties will include an end and info about where working will be displayed by the shed.

b/ f) Internal fences Members were encouraged to co-operate over internal fencing and height limits and materials agreed as in rules. **External Fences:** agreed to request security fencing on east and south sides and ditch / bank should be re-dug / cleared on west and north side. The fencing will be security not rabbit-proof fencing as this cannot be maintained and is not effective.

c) Wells Members were encouraged to check the map and mark on it any unmarked wells and to ensure any wells on their plots are covered (see Wendy's well covers).

d) Sheds: agreed approx. 6' x 8'x 8', on the shed line. Half plots were discussed. It was suggested that if a half plot and both members want storage, a low tool shed would be recommended if this does not shade any other plot. The Committee were asked to discuss and clarify this.

e) Mowing/Paths: Ed Todd stated he would still like to look at getting a second-hand tractor mower and had researched the additional cost of insurance. The problems of maintenance/ insurance/storage were discussed and it was agreed for this year that contract mowing will be done as needed. As all members must observe Rule 6 and keep headlands/paths adjoining their plot cut this will help. This will be reviewed at next AGM

h) Disused ground. It was clarified that this is still part of our lease but not available for use as allotments. It could not be used otherwise without agreement.

i) Clearance/Communal Area (see Map) This would be completed but most of neglect now cleared. Bramble by railway fence would be cleared as fence replaced by OCC? Willow pollarding and remaining internal trees would be completed in 2006. Main priority would be waste and fencing. Agreed that Communal area would be mowed for 1-2 years(to clear bramble)and then a communal area would be developed with benches, tables, fruit trees (and possibly native trees which would not impede adjoining plots). Plans for this would be agreed at future AGM. Request that a drinking water tap be considered in plans.

AOB

1) Members were urged to think about entering the Oxford City Allotment Competition - information will be put up on notice board when available; it is hoped to enter the whole site if there is a suitable category.

2) Members should give personal notices for the notice board to a member of the Committee.

3) The question of trees was again raised as a member asked that some should be kept and rules should 'not apply'. Another member pointed out that many trees, such as sycamore, were useless for wildlife. Plans for mixed native hedging along new fence which would include native species like spindle and blackthorn to encourage birds were discussed as was the application for a conservation grant for this. Members voted that the rule limiting trees to fruit trees of max. 10' in height was agreed unanimously.

4) Car-park bollards were to be moved to improve access to bridge.

5) Adjourned to refreshments and thanks to Carolyn for the wonderful food.