

Cripley Meadow Allotment Association

Minutes of the AGM held on 26th March 2012

At 6.50 **before the formal meeting** began the chair introduced John Mitri who was project manager for Oxford University's Castle Mill Stage 2 development. He had been present, as notified, for the 6 until 7 informal slot to talk to members and answer any questions. Wendy asked if there were any other questions before he left. Two were raised. 1. Would the well water levels be affected? John explained that the clay layer they had removed was above the gravel layer and any water pumped out was returned to the river so this would not affect the water table. 2. What colour would the buildings be and would there be any opportunity to express preferences? John stated that this had been part of the information submitted to the planning process and was not open to further consultation. Wendy thanked John for attending. She explained that the university was gradually working its way through the mitigation measures agreed. Badger proofing the gate area was next and all being well would start tomorrow.

Managing Additional Agenda items All members had been notified about received items for AOB. The committee had included their advice that the meeting to decide how to manage these within what was already a very busy agenda. The meeting agreed the following:

1. Andy Edwards from Architects Sans Frontieres,

is a co-worker with Mick and John on Plot SF4 had asked for a spot in AOB early March to ask for member's help on Chelsea Flower Show stand. Members had been notified of this request in the March Newsletter. *Members were asked to approve this presentation with a show of hands. They did so overwhelmingly.*

2. Lynne Fredlund's paper

Was received by the committee on March 20, and was circulated to all members, via email and the notice board, on Sunday 25 as requested. Notes from the committee had been included. The committee recommended that most of these items already had agenda slots and that they should be dealt with within these. This would be the decision of the meeting. *Members agreed to go through the items and have a show of hands.*

Item 1 on herbicides and pesticides. Wendy followed up with reference to our policies on Health and Safety Policy and Environmental Sustainability. She read out the relevant sections. Our Health and Safety Policy states "plotholders have a duty of care to store, use and dispose of pesticides, fertilisers, oil, petrol and any other potentially harmful substances". Our Environmental Sustainability Policy states "We have made minimal use of weedkillers in reclaiming the site and actively seek organic alternatives". In the light the content of Item 1 she asked if this provided sufficient guidance on the use of herbicides and pesticides. **Members voted 48:4 that this was sufficient guidance. It was noted it could be raised again in the discussion on weed control in the revised constitution and rules.**

Item 2 the meeting agreed by an overwhelming show of hands that Lynne should raise this in Section 5 on Handling complaints and breaches of the rules. Similarly **Item 3** had no proposal but was noted as a comment on Section 3. **Item 4** would be dealt with within section 6.4. and **Item 5** within 6.2. **Item 6** that committee

members have a two year tenure and must stand down for two years was raised. Members were asked if there were a number of members who had come to the meeting ready to stand? After further prompting Lynne raised her hand. She was asked what position she would like to stand for. She stated chair. This would be processed in the election agenda item. There were no other members ready to stand. The present committee would not accept this proposal as a basis for standing. *The meeting was asked to consider the proposal in Item 6. By an overwhelming show of hands they declined to support the proposal.*

1. Welcome by Chair Introduction: The South Field Slide Show

Wendy noted it had been an exceptionally busy year. The committee thought the AGM would rightly want to celebrate the reclamation of the South Field. A slide show clarified the contributions of the members and the committee in working parties, Oxford City Council grant in 2010, the Big Lottery Fund award in September 2011, Oxford University badger proofing in November 2011 had all enabled this project, begun in 2009, to be completed. The South Field opened 29 plots, in December 2011. These are now mostly under cultivation. Wendy thanked all who had contributed to this reclamation and especially Alison who wrote the Lottery bid, and Tony, who helped manage the project. The association would shortly be planting 4 alder trees on Fiddler's Bow next to Fiddler's Stream to increase biodiversity.

2. Members present and apologies for Absence: -

Jamie Forbes(63) David and Gaby Topliss (77/78) Hannah Yeadon (89/90) Carolyn Jarvis (SF9) Paul Allibone(SF8) Alison Lewis(SF12) Carolyn Dutton(9/64/65) Richard Dutton (co worker) Jane Eagen and Andrew Honey(5) Sasi Phosri (28) Adnan Shah (115) Sheila Allen (12) Lynne Fredlund (137-139) Richard Sims (102) Liz Sanders (129) Claire Pike (48B) Jane Mollison (42) George Burnett Stuart (33) James Allan (73) Katherine Lomas (96) Gina Cowen(154) Kiri Summers (99/100) Anthony Coombs (104) Sue Josephs (24) Andrea Gerten (151a) Johanna SJ Skye (24) Nicola Pohl (159de) Tim Bradshaw (79) Christine Long (8a) Richard Haigh (15) Rachel Rogan (117) David Feeny (76) Ria Mashall Snaddon and Jake Snaddon (116) John Carroll and Mick Scott(SF4) Godfrey Cole (14) Simon Mollison (122/123) Roger Trafford(20) John Curtis (SF2) Tim Bone (99/100) Yeshi Sampa(114) Julie Kleeman (co worker) Mark Doran (142b) Paul Torrance (119) Jeremy Hyde (91/92a) Alex Hollingsworth (81/82) Patsie Franks(99/100) Ian Barry (47K) Phillippa Pusey Broomhead (49) Alex Nolasco(133/134) Carol Kennett (140) Wendy Skinner Smith and Rodney Smith 40/41/40a/41a) John Sivell (46) Victor Elms(130a) Alison Campbell (13) Tony Clear (124) Lydia Cole (SF1) Andrew Kardan (97) John Langsbury (101) Chris Smith and Anita Jassi (74b) Cyril Pead (52b) Damian Young 43/44a) Richard Peto (28) Sue Perry (8b) Ben (SF1) Nicole Milligan (SF1) Myoungshin Kim (11) Mike James (51) Virgil Clarke (110) Andrew Lindridge (41) Austin Dunn (151a) Florentine Meinshausen 77 attended all or part of the meeting. Susanna Pressel attended as our invited local councillor.

Apologies for absence: Patricia Blanco Garcia (159B,C), Dot and Godfrey Stone (46), Sarah Sheldon (26), Cathy Ferreira (7), David Rundle (88A), Claire El Mouden (146E), Steve Day (SF17), Nicola Harvey (60)

3. Minutes of AGM 2011

Correction: Anita Jassi's name occurred twice in members present. The minutes were approved.

Matter 9c was raised by Lynne Fredlund (plot 139) who asked the meeting to have the agreement banning bamboo on site overturned. Carole (plot 140) asked that Lynne be supported in this. Other members pointed out this had been discussed at length at the last

AGM and *members voted overwhelmingly (60:4) for the previous decision to stand and not to review the subject again.*

4. Presentations to Sheila and John and their 'Reflections on Cripsey Meadow'

Both were thanked warmly for their hard work, enthusiasm and friendly support over the years as Secretary and Vice Chair respectively. They both reflected on the extensive changes which had taken place on the site over the years. Although stepping down from committee work both will continue to be involved with their allotments. They were presented with blueberry bushes and cards.

5. Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report

Copies of the accounts which have been inspected independently by accountant Ken Jones were circulated. Alison drew attention to the 2011 expenditure where the extra mowing, pollarding and path repairs accounted for the increase. In 2012 there will be fewer skips on site and members were asked to ensure they take their rubbish home. Some of the 'Awards for All' grant has been spent (fencing, shed and water butts) accounting for the reduced 2012 opening balance. *Members approved the budget and Alison was thanked for her work as treasurer.*

6. Annual Report

There were no questions. Wendy was thanked for her full report.

7. Welcome from Susanna Pressel and Election of Chair.

Susanna thanked members and the committee, and Wendy in particular, for their hard work over the year. She asked for nominations for Chair –Lynne Fredlund was nominated by Caroline Dutton and seconded by Nicole Pohl. Wendy Skinner Smith was nominated by Sheila Allen and seconded by Gina Cowan. Wendy was re-elected Chair (60:6)

8. Elections

All officers and committee members were elected unopposed. Vice Chair: Tony Clear, Secretary: Claire Pike, Treasurer: Alison Campbell, Field Secretary: Richard Haigh. Other committee members: Jamie Forbes, Alex Hollingsworth, Jeremy Hyde, Hannah Yeadon, Mark Doran, Mark Tindall

9. Constitution and Rules

Godfrey Cole, a member and lawyer, had helped in the redrafting of this document and was thanked for his work. All members had had time to consider the items. They were given a key to assist with identifying changes and each item was displayed on the overhead projector screen. *It was agreed to have a show of hands for and against for each section before formally adopting the rules at the end of the process.*

Sections 1,2 were approved.

Section 3 No comments. Lynne was asked if she wished to add anything for discussion. She declined. Section 3 was approved without alteration.

Section 4. General Meetings –After a short discussion on the small proportion of 20 to the numbers of members and reflecting that this number changed it was agreed that 4.2 and 4.6 be changed to so that the quorum for the AGM and SGM be 10% of the membership.

Section 5. Lynne was asked if she wished to add any comment. She declined. Section 5 and 6.1 were approved without alteration.

Section 6.2 Cultivation and weed control. There was further discussion about herbicides and the need to use them in exceptional circumstances. Issues such as seeking neighbours'

views and obtaining committee approval before use were raised but thought impractical to monitor. Other members raised the problem of encroaching perennial weeds and invasive plants on boundaries. Wendy noted that as an organic gardener she had had to change her opinion to the prudent use of glyphosate(Roundup) in managing the site. This was raised with new members in the introductory tour. Because we are a largely newly reclaimed site many members were defeated by weeds and never got to growing food! Also the ability of members to cultivate the ground successfully could be seriously limited if invasive plants like ground elder and horsetail got a hold through lack of cultivation. The relative harm of the production of black plastic, the failure rate it trying to keep it down and its disposal made it a difficult call with regard to measuring environmental concerns. Certainly the committee could not manage the site without some prudent use of glyphosate without a drastic increase in the hours needed to manage the site. They recognised there were arguments for and against its use and had considered these carefully and worked hard to ensure paths were kept between plots as they acted as effective and necessary buffers. Godfrey and the committee agreed to draft a statement 6.2.10 'For Information only' on the use of herbicides. This will be a draft inclusion in the revised constitution and rules and will be reviewed at next year's AGM.

Section 6.3 was approved without alteration or discussion.

Section 6.4. 6.4.1 The 'Association' was changed to read 'members. Lynn was asked if she had any further comment to 6.4. She declined. Section 6.4 was approved with one alteration to 6.4.1.

Section 6.5, 6.6, was approved without alteration.

6.7.1 It was noted that bonfires within Oxford City Council Bonfire Code may become more unacceptable when phase2"of Castle Mill site is completed. The committee hoped that by then the Association will be able to afford a shredder to help with waste disposal/recycling and further reduce the need for bonfires.

Section 6.8. A question was raised with regard to 6.8.6 and the results of the latest site environmental testing (2008-2011). The conclusion of OCC's Environmental Health Department in a letter received in January 2012 was that "The Council has completed its investigations and concluded that the site is not presenting a significant risk of significant harm and will not be determining the site or any part of the site as Contaminated Land under PartIIa of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. was approved without alteration

6.9.4 Storage of petrol, oil and lubricants. Godfrey explained this item has been included to comply with the site insurance policy.

Alison Campbell proposed that this revised Constitution and Rules with the above agreed amendments be approved and applied. There was a unanimous vote to approve this.

10.OCC Allotment Charter

This document, drawn up by OCC Parks department and agreed by most local allotment associations, was approved by members.

11. AOB

Andy Edwards from Architects Sans Frontieres has a stand in the environment section at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. He plans to include local vegetables in the display and would like to ask Cripsey Meadow members to help provide these. He recognised this was an odd time of year. Andy will put contact details on the Allotment notice board.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm