



2nd Fairview Allotment Association General Meeting

Place Southfield Golf Club committee room

Date Sunday 10 Feb 2008

Time 10:00

Agenda

Item

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM 11 Feb 2007
3. Chairman's report
Ian
4. Secretary's report
Terry
5. Treasurer's report
David
6. Elections of officers and committee members for 2008/9
7. Plot rents 2008/9
8. AOB

Minutes

Apologies: Tony Imbriano, Colin Whittle (SGC)

Attending: Ian Clarke (Chair), Terry Wood (Secretary), David Morgan (Treasurer), Miles Kempson, Steve Woolliams, Heather Armitage, Barbara & Eric Cook, Mathias Dreger, Blake Arrowsmith, Mike Pickering, Outi Pickering, Peter Tutt, Eleanor Burnett, Ellie Coull-Fee.

1. **Ian** welcomed all to this 2nd annual general meeting of the Fairview Allotments Association and thanked SGC for the use of their committee room.
Colin Whittle (SGC Secretary) was unable to attend following a club house fire on 8 Feb. FAA sends its wishes for a speedy restoration of the damage.
2. The minutes of the 1st AGM were accepted as an



- accurate record. There were no comments or questions.
3. **Ian** expressed thanks on behalf of the association to the other members of the committee (Terry, David and William) for work through the year and to Darren Burnett for his assistance with the Risk Assessment. **Ian** reported progress with the site plan. As the site is very irregular this will be an extended project. Michael Pickering noted that he was unclear as to the boundaries of his own site. Eric Cook reminded the meeting that boundaries were to be discussed on site in Spring 2007.

Action:
combine
boundary
discussions
with litter-
pick
session?

4. **Terry** presented the Secretary's report.

2007 will be remembered as a difficult year, with Spring weather so dry that it was almost impossible to break new ground, followed by a very wet summer. We can be grateful that Fairview was not among the allotment sites in Oxford that were flooded. We are all looking forward to an easier time in 2008.

Members may be interested to know that Ordnance Survey shows that our site is clearly labelled "allotment gardens" on the 1955 map (site area 1.33 acres) and may well have been allotments in 1919, though part of a much wider area.

Membership numbers have risen from 8 (when the idea of forming a proper association was discussed in late 2006) to 11 (at our first AGM in Feb 2007) to the present 21. There is now very little opportunity to take on additional members without pro-active clearance work. As a consequence there is now a waiting list of 2.

A **Risk Assessment** was carried out on 8 Jan 2008 by Darren Burnett and Terry. The results will be distributed to all ploholders (by email where possible) and summaries are available at this meeting. Actions are required from individual ploholders and (for communal issues) from the Association. The main issues arise from dangerous debris on site and the committee is proposing that one Sunday morning is set aside for a communal tidy up. I would ask all ploholders who notice any fly-tipping on the site to bring this to the

Fairview Allotments Association



attention of a member of the committee.

The next risk assessment is due to take place in July.

Of the 36 allotment sites Fairview now becomes number 6 to have a **website**. The committee on behalf of the members would like to propose a vote of thanks to Miles Kempson who came up with the suggestion and has done all the work. We are sure this will be a great asset to the association, particularly to attract new members and funds; find it at www.fairview-allotments.org.uk. If any plotholder has suggestions for the site these should be passed to any member of the committee.

FAA is a member of the **Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations** (ODFAA) and it is the committee's intention to renew membership in April 2008. At present the subscription is 20p per plotholder and is paid directly from the Fairview account. The federation fulfils the vital role of representing the 2000+ plotholders on the 36 Oxford allotment sites. Membership also provides public liability insurance. Meetings are held 4 times a year at the Town Hall with a representative from Oxford City Council. FAA has one vote at these meetings but is welcome to send more than one delegate. The next meeting is on 10 April so if anyone is interested they should inform the FAA secretary.

Fairview Association was successful in receiving a grant from Oxford City Council in 2007. However, the committee's funding target is in excess of £5000 so **fundraising** will remain one of our most important activities.

Terry concluded his report with best wishes to members for a productive 2008.

There were no comments or questions. Ian proposed acceptance of the report and this was passed without opposition. Ian thanked Terry for all his efforts over the year.

5. Copies of FAA accounts (attached) were circulated by **David** who highlighted the main points. The association

Fairview Allotments Association



has a credit balance of £188.16 plus £135 representing key deposits.

Following Eleanor's question Ian confirmed that spending was decided by the committee.

Ian proposed acceptance of the report and this was passed without opposition.

6. As there was only a single candidate for each of the committee posts Ian declared that all candidates were elected unopposed, without the need for a vote. On behalf of members, Ian thanked David and William for their work over the past year.
7. **David** introduced the subject of rents for 2008 (at present £8 per plot). Since there have been no site improvements in 2007 the committee considered that no rent increase was appropriate. The association rent to SGC is also unchanged for the coming year. Terry pointed out that subscriptions to ODFAA may increase. **Ian** called for a vote to accept the committee proposal that the rent for 2008 remain at £8 per plot. This was passed without objection. Members were reminded that rents were due on 1 April.

There was a brief discussion of various sources of funding (such as Cowley Area Committee) for large items such as vehicular access and off-road standing area.

8. (a) **Terry** introduced the "Equality, Diversity and Inclusion" policy which the association is required to consider. This will make no change to Fairview activities but will ensure that the association is perceived in the correct light or 'preaches what it practises'.

After some discussion the following statement was agreed with no objections.

"We support the development of a cohesive community and will seek to attract and maintain a culturally diverse membership of mixed gender covering all age groups and which provides an opportunity for healthy lifestyles and diet."

This statement will be appended to the Constitution with immediate effect and will be presented for incorporation at the next AGM.

- (b) Terry suggested that even though there was no resolution of hazardous and heavy waste disposal that an communal litter pick would be beneficial (before spring growth begins) and called for a volunteer to

ACTION:
Terry to include this as an agenda item at 3rd AGM

ACTION:
Ellie volunteered

Fairview Allotments Association



organize this.

(c) Untended plots. Terry reported that a small number of plots appeared not to have been cultivated in any way during 2007. Each affected plotholder will shortly be asked their intentions for 2008.

It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate an email asking if people would agree to share their addresses with other members to facilitate communication.

ACTION:
Letter/email to be sent as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 11:30.