**MINUTES OF FAA COMMITTEE 02/05/2023**

Present at 8 Colneis Road - Nev Farthing (Host), Steve Brewer, Claire Smith, Claire MacKinder, Peter Constable, Keith Horn, Guy Pearce, Ray Martin, John Austin.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None. Claire MacKinder has joined the committee as a result of Paul Filby standing down at the AGM

1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Accepted as distributed.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

**Item 3.1 CP one way trial**

Trial in progress and going well with minimum negative comments, people are adhering to the rules however we had one objector submitting written input who has since resigned membership of FAA. Nev will be inviting Ash of FTC to make the change permanent hopefully and amend the tenancy agreement accordingly including the penalty for non compliance.

It has been noted that the one way system won’t reduce roadway wear and that it will require ongoing maintenance. An article will be included in the next newsletter.

**Item 3.2 Ferry Road Pedestrian Gate**

 Reported problems with the digital gate lock have today been resolved.

 Latch has been taken off the gate leaving the digital lock functioning.

However it is thought that rain may affect the functioning of the digital lock together with the alignment of the gate posts.

Consideration could be given to replacing it with a chain and key lock.

Nev will get Shane to look at what Tom has put in place and Claire will then put out a note to FR members.

**Item 3.3 Vermin Control**

 This is ongoing at CP.

**Item 3.4 Allitlements**

Available plots are now almost fully utilised.

A double water trough with ball cock filler has been purchased by the town council although FTC is yet to confirm a date to install, help may be required to bury the new water pipe to speed up the installation.

It was noted that we have a general site problem with the misuse of hosepipes and bulk filling of storage water tanks, plotholder education is thought to be the solution.

**Item 3.5 Booklet**

The introduction to allotments booklet is now available in the shop and is being distributed to new FAA members.

1. **PARTNERSHIP MEETING**

The tenancy agreement now states that chickens are only permitted with prior agreement of FTC. One tenant has been refused to date however the decision was reversed on appeal.

The situation regarding bees requires further clarification by FTC, we have one instance where empty hives have been placed on a CP plot.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

One email objecting to the one way system at CP, see above.

1. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

 Current Account £1377

 Deposit Account £12948

Cash £105.97

Invoices to pay:

 £456 Hort Supplies, £60 toilets, Capel Allotments speaker Charity donation, suggestion of Mayor’s charity.

296 paid up members to date out of 491 individual plots.

1. **EVENTS**

BBQ is proposed for 2nd July with a possible scarecrow competition, details to be sorted nearer the time.

Coffee and cake on the 4th Saturday of the month. First event was held on 22nd April with the next one scheduled for 27th May arranged by Sarah Castle.

The event raised £51 minus expenses, future events will require guidance on what cakes are required.

Facebook and website. New Facebook site has been well received with 72 members to date and is working well. Claire Smith has made improvements to both portals and both shop prices and newsletters are available from the website. All posts are authorised before going live and comments are required to remain focused.

OFCA has its annual plant sale on 10th June in conjunction with the Garden Club and donations will be well received, plants, rhubarb and sweet peas are especially welcome. Volunteers are required to assist.

The Garden Club has its annual show on 15th July, entries will be welcomed.

A visit to Capel Allotments is to be scheduled once a date has been agreed and our hosts indicate how many can be accommodated. 16th July has been put forward as a suggestion.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Hedging Proposal. Should we plant hedging whips next winter in an attempt over time to provide a perimeter hedge? Site survey to be carried out covering the gap between orchard to poplar tree, proposal to be raised with FTC at next partnership meeting.

Speeding Problems. People are regularly observed speeding on site at CP.

It was agreed control of this is difficult with the only solution being communication and enforcement.

Peat free compost. Ray has the latest information on the future of peat free compost and is conducting his own trials. Ray will update the committee via information obtained from the RHS once available. This will at some point impact what can be sold in the shop.

**DONM**

Tuesday - 4th July 2023 - 19.30 - 8 Colneis Road