



**MINUTES OF 1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH JULY 2011
AT THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, HUNGERFORD**

Present:

Ted Angell, Felicity Chapple, Sarah Chatters, Tony Drewer-Trump, Sue Ealding, Chris Tout, Sue McKillop, Jamie Hieatt, Trevor Jackson, Mrs Jackson, John Stanley, John Stanley, Tony Lavers, Derek Loft, Diane Loft, Jane Malham, Louise Marshall, Ann Prestoe, Belinda Robinson, Kerry Taylor, Chris Tout, Sandy Waldie, Malcolm Wood, Joe Shore

Apologies: Neil Pike

Chairman's Report (Chris Tout)

The Chairman thanked Derek Loft for arranging and the British Legion for use of the venue. Thanks were extended to all the HAHA committee members for all their hard work over the last year and also to ex-committee members Geoff Greenland for his work on agreements, the constitution and the water supply at Marsh Lane and Jamie Hieatt and Belinda Robinson for setting up the website.

During the past year grants were received from West Berks Council to fence and gate Marsh Lane site, from North Wessex Downs to drill the bore hole and also from Hungerford Town Council (extra funding to allow the bore hole project to be completed).

Fairfields Chair's Report (Felicity Chapple – HAHA Deputy Chair)

FC thanked the HAHA committee and the Fairfields committee. Special thanks to Bob Pullen, who resigned as Site Steward this year still keeps a watchful eye over the site for the committee. Thanks also extended to Sovereign Housing for letting us use the land.

The Fairfields site, which comprises 24 one-pole plots and now has 100% occupancy with all plots being well-cultivated. Since it was taken over in November 2009 a section of fence has been replaced (thanks to a grant from North West Downs AONB). A small army of water butts have been installed to harvest rainwater from the roofs on an existing outbuilding and the border that fronts onto the public footpath has been cleared of brambles and planted with flowers and surplus vegetable plants. The site now has 2 communal compost bins, steps have been built and paths repaired. Two plant sales have been held to supplement the rental income. All this has been achieved through work days and effort from the committee.

Future plans include raised beds for communal land which has been cleared but is not suitable for cultivation; improvement to water harvesting and painting of shed doors.

Marsh Lane Chair's Report (Chris Tout)

CT reported on the improvements to Marsh Lane site over the past year with many communal areas being grassed, but commented on work still to be done to pathways to allow easier access to plots and safer terrain underfoot.

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Marsh Lane Chair's Report (Chris Tout) Con't

It is envisaged that next year Marsh Lane will hold an Open Day with barbecue, activity for children and stalls selling surplus produce, possibly at the end of July to tie in with HADCAF. He suggested that Plot 2, which has not been allocated as is full of mare's tail, could be worked by committee members, hopefully with help from other plotheolders, to grow produce which could be sold at the Open Day.

The next HAHA committee meeting will be held at The Croft Club on 26th July at 7.30 pm (followed by ML committee meeting).

Secretary's Report (Sarah Chatters)

SC reported on the establishment of HAHA as a formally constituted association, in order to provide a single point of contact for Hungerford Town Council (HTC) with regard to the management of the two allotment sites, and to make it possible to apply for grants. Over the past year the HAHA committee has worked with HTC to draw up the constitution and separate strategies for each site.

HAHA membership is not compulsory for plotheolders, but is free and entitles members to enjoy discounts on seeds and to have a say in the management of the allotment sites.

Treasurer's Report (Ted Angell)

Copies of the audited account for the year 2010/2011 were circulated and are attached. The Treasurer went through the income and expenditure for the year. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Felicity Chapple and seconded by Tony Drewer-Trump. Thanks were extended to Stephen Pollard for auditing the accounts, to Claire Barnes, Town Clerk, for her assistance with the accounts and also to David Liddiard for his donation of £100 credit at Travis Perkins. Also thanks to all plotheolders for paying their rent promptly.

Seed Secretary's Report (Derek Loft)

DL reported that the uptake from King's Seeds last year was somewhat disappointing. Products from their catalogue will be available again this year, but we may have to order more to obtain the discount. A seed sale meeting will be arranged for October 2011.

Butterfly netting and ground cover fleece is still available (about 3,000 metres of netting was sold during last year).

DL reported that he was still trying to find a suitable local supplier of manure. He has sourced some competitively priced winter broad beans and onion sets for autumn planting. DL to send details to SC who will email HAHA members with the details. DL asked that anyone interested in this offer contact him before 1st August 2011.

DL also asked if people wishing to phone could please use his mobile number rather than his land line.

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Election of Committee

The existing committee members were all re-elected:

Chair: Chris Tout
Deputy Chair: Felicity Chapple
Treasurer: Ted Angell
Assistant Treasurer: Louise Marshall
Secretary: Sarah Chatters
Assistant Secretary: Vacant post – no nominations
Seed Secretary: Derek Loft

Any Other Business

Jane Malham asked if unallocated plots at Marsh Lane would be tidied up and weeded. Jane also asked if there a toilet could be provided on the site. There followed a lively discussion on the possibility of building a compost toilet in a communal area. This is something that other allotments have done. The committee will investigate.

Sandy Waldie asked if the year end for Marsh Lane could be brought forward one month (to April) in line with Fairfields, to allow new ploholders a longer growing period. The committee will discuss this with HTC.

Sandy Waldie asked if rights could be granted to shoot pigeons on the Marsh Lane site. HTC to be consulted. FC commented that where she works a falconer visits with a bird of prey which deters the pigeons. Sue Ealding agreed to speak to her neighbour who is a falconer as to the possibility of using this option on the allotment sites.

Jamie Hieatt reported that rabbits had been spotted on the Marsh Lane site. CT will check the fence for holes but reminded ploholders of the importance of keeping the gate closed at all times.

John Stanley commented on improvements already made (and planned) to the container to facilitate optimum storage of tools. In order to keep the container clean and tidy John reported that a boot cleaner had been provided and asked that the last person to leave the site please ensure that this goes back into the container. There is also a bucket, tissues and WD40 provided for anyone who wishes to clean their tools before putting them away. John also reported that since April 2010 the water pump had been run for 53 hours and had provided 42,449 gallons of water. This quantity is only around 10% of the water consumption allowed. There is some algae build up in the water pipes, the solution to which would be to keep the sun off the pipes. To this end the erection of a lean-to against the container is planned.

Tony Drewer-Trump agreed to act a Membership Secretary with responsibility for monitoring plot allocation.

Sue McKillop thanked the Committee.

A raffle was held which raised £33.00.