Layton Permanent Allotment Assoc.

Minutes of meeting 29th May, 2013 at St. Kentigerns Social Club 7.45pm.

**Present**: Vice chair/ Site Rep. Toni Dagnall **Apologies**: Jacky Stennett

Comm. Jane Keane Dave Stennett

Comm. David Wignall Sheila Dryden

Sec. Isabel Horn Milton Dryden

Gayna Dagnall Stuart Gibson

Shaun Keane Shirley Horn

Derreck Walls Bernie O’Hara

John Horn

Toni opened the meeting by thanking all who attended and the minutes of last meeting were agreed.

**Matters arising:**

A date for the Produce Show has been agreed for the 7th and 8th September. A judge for the vegetable section has been booked and flower and cookery judges are being sourced.

The concrete midden at the front of plot 17 has now been built. Thanks to Dave Stennett for all his hard work.

A skip was supplied by Blackpool Council for all the fly-tipped rubbish on the dyke side. The 4 ton skip was quickly filled and it was rather like the “Generation Game” with items such as a vacuum cleaner, toaster, cuddly toy etc. being deposited in the skip. Thanks to all who helped with the clean up.

The Dog Show and Gala Day took place on Kingscote Park on sat. 18th May. Jacky and Isabel manned a stall on behalf of the Assoc. It was a miserable day, in the pouring rain, but £52 was raised towards Association Funds. Thanks to all who helped by donating vegetables, plants and flowers for the event.

Progress has been made with the neighbouring property at the rear of plot 41. Toni will give details on this.

A post-hole digger has been donated which is available to any one who wished to erect new fencing, thank you John, plot 8

The funding application was presented by Isabel at the Parklands area Forum on April 29th . A number of questions were asked and she fielded these well with the result that, at the vote 92% were in favour of our application. So we will be receiving £500 to purchase various trees for planting by the dyke side which will help in creating a wild life area.

A sign has been ordered and should be ready next week. It will be on the same lines as the tea room sign and will be positioned within the perimeter fence on the left hand side of the gate.

**Chairs Report**:

Our major concern at the moment is the water, or should it be said,, the lack of it. On checking Blairway Avenue water meter, on Bank Holiday Monday Dave discovered that there was a discrepancy of 80cubic metres of water between that meter and our own on Site. This was a vast amount of water to disappear and meant that there must have been a serious leak between the two meters. It was believed that we would have seen evidence of such a large leak on Site and there was none, however the Blairway meter was under water and there is a grid close by that it could have run into. Dave turned the water off as it could have cost the Site a fortune. United Utilities have been notified but do not class this as an emergency, which leaves us without water as United Utilities have still not fixed the leak on the Fordway Ave. meter, which has been turned off since the 1st May. Toni will be dealing with United Utilites while Jacky and Dave are away.

An 8 ton skip was quickly filled, for rubbish removal on Site. By hiring it through the Council the payment of VAT was avoided. But it still cost the Association £150.

It seems that we are not destined to have the two middens up and running on site. I am sure you have noticed that the one on the main car park has been partly demolished. It was the muck man from Staining who was responsible and he did knock on Jacky’s door and apologise. Vinnie, who built the midden for us, will look at it and see what he can salvage and hopefully, rebuild it in the near future.

We have been receiving emails for a number of weeks from a householder on Lakeway. These followed the felling of the three poplar trees by the dyke side, in preparation for the fencing to be erected. Previously these neighbours have complained about these trees shading their gardens, now they complain that, by removing them, we have spoilt their view, You really can’t win.

However, a meeting with the “concerned gentleman” on Site last week, has, we believe resolved the issues which he voiced and shown him our side of the picture. As it happens, when we went down to view the area, it was found that someone, probably children, had been on Site and attempted to bridge the dyke to gain access. It showed the necessity for fencing in that area which, hopefully should be erected in the next 3 to 4 weeks time.

**Treasurers Report**:

£1,353 has been received from democratic services, this monies has been given to the site by Cllrs Mitchell and Boughton out of their Council Budget to pay for the fencing to be erected at the bottom lefthand side of Site.

Shop purchases of £346.80 have been made, the shop is fully stocked and there for plot holders convenience.

A cheque has been issued, but not yet cashed, for £150 for the payment of skip.

Summaries of the accounts for May and a running total of the Assoc. Bank account will be put with a copy of the minutes in the folder tea rooms for all to examine.

**Site Report**:

Welcome to Phil and Sarah Lees who have taken over plot 17B and to Rowan and Raven Debonair on plot 41A.

Everyone should know by now that we feel compelled to enforce the Council rules

about children staying on their parents plots and being accompanied by an adult when on the road, The reason was two very near misses where a child could have been seriously hurt. This is **NOT** a new rule.

The same thing applies to dogs on leads, a new Council Bylaw from 1st June, and please, will owners keep an eye on your dog if you are talking. It’s very easy for them to leave a deposit when you are not watching, mine does.

Machinery hire: will everyone **PLEASE** clean the machines when they have finished with them. There is not a cleaning fairy; Derreck got very upset last time someone called him that.

This is a suggestion, but, could plot holders please meet any deliveries at the gate and walk down with the van/tractor/lorry. We have managed to have the same tap broken twice, if a tap is broken, the water has to be turned off until it is fixed.

(Is it possible to have a word with Farmer Willosey and ask him to use the bottom car park to turn instead of reversing most of the way.

Thanks again to Derreck and John who bought a new tap and fitted it to save the day.

Another reason to keep the gate locked is that children from Beckway are trying to sneak on to the site, obviously to get up to mischief.

There was some vandalism at the back of the site by the dyke; tree trunks were thrown into the dyke and a safety barrier was used as a bridge over the dyke. Again thanks to John and Dave Stennett for clearing that up.

If the water pressure is low, it could be that we have only one United Utilities tap switched on, one of the taps, Blairway has a leak. United Utilities say they will fix it in five days.(from Tuesday 28/5/2013).

Site Inspections are happening every month. This month two weed notices have been issued and two queries on different plots.

On a good note we have reclaimed some of our land back from a neighbour who “borrowed” it when he gave up his plot. It was at the rear of plot 41; I was up there with John (he gets about doesn’t he?) when the “owner” appeared. I asked him if this was his land and was he prepared for a compensation claim if the bricks he stored there fell onto our plot holders. Quick as a flash he said “No, it’s not mine” It’s been added to plot 40B.

Thanks again to Phyllis and Gayna for cleaning the loo under some quite hazardous conditions. If you are not doing a number one and you are not prepared to clean it up after you, **GO HOME**. The state the toilet has been left in at times is quite revolting and people who leave it like that should not expect these two ladies to clean up their mess.

I mention John, Dave and Derreck, and there are one or two others that help out, but we really could use some volunteers for grass cutting and general maintenance. If you have the time to spare, please let me know?

John, (him again) has been making some wooden numbered signs for the plot holders. After costs to John, the proceeds go to the association funds. Give him something to do.

There are now 19 people on the waiting list.

**Secretary report**:

Hopefully the fencing will be erected in two or three weeks time, securing the area at the bottom of the Site bordering on Lakeway. As you know the Area Forum has very kindly granted us £500 to spend on trees to plant on that area, as Democratic Services are very slow to dispense these grants and it could be a couple of months before we get the actual cash paid into the bank account, I have asked our Treasurer and Committee, could we possibly have the money for the purchase of trees when the fencing is installed, it would be nice if we could have some planted for Open day and Jane suggested that when the area has been planted photographs are taken and sent to the Gazette. This has been agreed and three members of the Site, myself, Jane and Gayna will oversee the purchases of the trees. These are to be bought from Baguleys, who are giving a discount of 10%, they are also giving the venue free of charge for the Produce Show and the head nursery man has always been extremely helpful and informative.

Radio Wave events have been contacted and our Open day is now registered on their events calendar.

**A.O.B:**

John brought up the subject of the Produce Show in September, and hoped that we would be kept in the loop regarding this event and that the members of the Assoc. who are experienced in Produce Showing are asked for their assistance and advice.

It was agreed that David Slack would be contacted and asked to give an update on the progress and encourage more participation from Layton members who may be interested in entering their produce in this event.

Jane enquired as to the date of the next Open Day Committee meeting and it was agreed that this would be scheduled for the last Sunday in June, the 30th at 2pm. The subject of the poor attendance at the monthly meetings was also discussed and, as it is summer (hopefully) it was suggested that we hold the next monthly meeting on Site, at the same time as the Open day meeting, making it easier for members with children and plot holders with work commitments to attend. This was agreed on so we will be having the two meetings, running concurrently, on Sunday 30th June, there will also be a finger buffet available, encouraging members to socialize after the meetings. More plot holders need to be involved in the running and current events on the Site, this is an independent Allotment Site, please do not leave every aspect of the decision making and ongoing projects up to a few people who are willing to get stuck in and do the work. As Dave W. then stated, Allotment holders are all entitled to express their opinions and concerns and should be encouraged to do so. Please feel encouraged and entitled, helpful input, volunteers and suggestions are very welcome.

John then brought up the subject of a third midden which had been previously agreed on, this to be sited at the bottom of the Allotment Site. It was thought that it a third midden in that area was a necessity for the plots in that area, Toni is to source the opinions of the members whose plots are situated on that section. The car park in the middle of the Site is not suitable for leaving manure as the space is needed for parking, already we have members having to park outside due to lack of parking space on Site.

A notice board for the bottom of the Site where the wildlife area is to be was also discussed, this was deemed to be a good idea, it could give details of the area, the types of trees planted there and acknowledging the assistance given by our local councillors and the area forum in funding us the improvements made to this area, it could also serve as an information board advising the members on that stretch of the site about any events etc on site.

A proposal that, in future, the Site inspections are to be conducted by Toni, one other member of the committee, and, **from now on also a member of the Site to be included**, was made, seconded and unanimously agreed on.

Toni closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Site, at Brightmans tearooms on Sunday 30th June at 2pm.