Attendees:

Jacky Stennett (**JS**) Chair - 6, Dave Stennett (**DS**) Treasurer -7

Isabel (**IH**) Sec. & John Horn – 12, Dave Wignall Min. Sec – 40, Jane Keane – 4, Derrick Walls – 36, Geoff & Margaret Brayshaw – 37, Michelle & Christine Farmer – 42, Tony & Gayna Dagnall – 3, Stuart Gibson (**SG**) – 26, Gail Blackburn & Sarah Mather – 30, Alison & Christine Penistone – 16, P Madden & T Walsa – 22, M Canham & R Coupe – 22, Lesley & Dave Roberts – 2, Fran Grundy – 19, Steve Bullock – 20, Pete & Jo Eccles, 17a, Elaine Aldous – 39a

**JS** opened the meeting at 1945hrs and welcomed all.

**Apologies**

Neil, Anthony Evans, Phyllis, Alan and Fiona, Shirley, Coral, Mark and Brigitte Thornton, Bernie & Albert, Matt Moore.

**Minutes of previous meeting** 28/09/2014 were accepted without amendment by the meeting.

**Matters arising** from previous meeting

Produce Show – a joint event held with David’s Slack Allotments. This was a great success with increased entries. The cost of the vases, initially outlaid by the Association’s, had been repaid from the show and the profits split with DS Allotments.

Next year’s show would not be held at Baguley’s. An alternative is being sought and Blackpool Cricket Club is the likely venue.

The perimeter fence had finally been completed and trees removed. Unfortunately the site’s neighbour encroached onto the allotment site land and has damaged the fence. This has been reported to Blackpool Council along with photographic evidence. The current advice from the Council is to leave it to the Council’s legal department.

The Residents Only Parking scheme – Stuart attended the area forum meeting and called it ‘shambolic’. Although there is no official word, it is thought the local councillors are against the scheme, no decision has been made.

As agreed at the previous Association meeting, a marquee (12m x 4m) has been purchased. There may be opportunities to loan it out to other groups, but the main purpose is for our Open Day and Association use. Boxes will need to be purchased for its storage.

Association’s Bonfire Night will commence 5th November at 18:30hrs. There will be a BBQ (including vegetarian option) and fireworks. Lighting will be provided this year, (no bangers or rockets please). Do place wood for burning on the car park.

Unfortunately, the application for a new on-site road to the Lottery Fund was not granted. Meanwhile, Isabel is using other sources to find alternatives.

**Chairperson’s report**

No additional items

**Treasurers Report**

**DS** distributed his account summary report.

There is £547 cash and £5728 in bank = £6275

The Produce Show made £130 profit, (after repayment to Association of cost of vases £77), £80 from the donated greenhouses from B&Q. The cost of the marquee was £412 - which represents good value.

One of the Associations biggest expenditures is the cost of the water. A rebate is possible on next year’s bill, as £250 more was raised through rents than was needed. However, until the final water bills have been received we will not know. DS reminded all attendees that this year the Association received a £300 rebate from the Federation for the overpayment of previous year’s water charges. The water will be turned off after Bonfire Night.

**Secretaries report.**

**IH**. On 29th & 30th November, at the Winter Gardens, there is a Craft Fair. So if you are looking for Christmas presents, get down to Dotties Delightful Craft Fair. Ruth did let the Association have a stall at the Winter Gardens in the summer where we were able to raise quite a bit of money for funds.

**Site report**

**JS** introduced this report as the Association no longer has the role of site representative.

She explained that being without a Site Rep was a trial, as the Sit Rep was receiving all the agro / complaints. This is now shared between all committee members.

A site inspection took place last week by four members of the Association’s Committee and a tenant. One plot did receive a 2nd weed notice. JS explained that receiving a 2nd weed notice within a 6 month period did mean eviction. However, between the time of the inspection and the Association’s eviction notice being received by the tenant (two days later), a great deal of work had been completed to remove the weeds. The tenant then appealed the eviction notice and the committee met to discuss the appeal. There were some mitigating circumstances and the eviction notice has been rescinded.

JS went on to explain that the circumstances that led to this weed notice being issued was perhaps down to lack of communication from the tenant. There were a number of issues affecting the time the tenant was able to visit their allotment but, they had not let any of the committee know of this. The secretary had called personally and by phone several times but had been unable to make contact with the tenant.

JS then reminded all that if you had concerns, you were ill, if your circumstances change that affects you managing your plot let *one of the committee members know*. A phone call, email, website comment form or call in, let someone know and our support will be provided. As well as all the heartache this could alleviate, it also is a lot of hard work! ***Tell someone!***

There were some other minor problems with a couple of plots during the inspection and these are being addressed with the tenants directly.

**IH** implored all plot holders to let us know if you change your contact details – email, telephone number(s), or address. Information is sent out to all plot holders from secretary, minute secretary that may be important – notices, minutes, items for sale or possibly damage of something affecting your plot – keep us updated as to your contact details.

**AOB**

**JS** Layton Bee Project – the tenancy agreement for the project is being drawn up and it has been agreed that the project will place a small fence around their plot along with a safety notice.

**JS** Steve & Fran have again this year grown a pumpkin, a giant pumpkin. It was transported down to the Sandcastle by their own staff, as a ‘team building’ activity last Thursday, ready to be carved today. It is on display from tomorrow, to be used to raise funds for charity by guessing its weight. So, do go down to the Sandcastle and try to guess the weight. Well done Steve & Fran.

**JS** One piece of disappointing news this week - we learned that our bid to the Big Lottery Fund for a new road had been unsuccessful. Our bid was a lot of money, £23,000 and with the current economic environment and cut backs; the demands on funding such as The Big Lottery Fund are great. **IH** is continuing to search other areas that may be able to provide help.

No other items were raised.

**AGM**

**JS** startedthe AGM part of the meeting with a review of the previous 12 months. It had been a good year, as was evident from the treasurer’s report. The Open Day was the best we have ever held, well attended and the funds raised were magnificent, allowing us to repair all the gaps in our fence. John reliably informs everyone that next years will be even better.

There had been a lot more involvement with other groups – networking, which has brought its own rewards – more tables at for example, the Craft Fair, Kingscote Park, Layton School.

These have raised over £400, allowing us to effectively purchase the new marquee. Thanks to everyone’s donations.

Layton Bee Project has started. It has introduced children to the site, the importance of bees and how things grow.

It was the second year of the Fruit and veg Produce Show, in partnership with David’s Slack Allotments. With two years behind us, we now have most of the hardware for putting on the show – advertising banners, vases and importantly, the skill and knowledge.

**DS** added that if the Produce Show is held at the Cricket Club, then there is scope for having stalls in addition to the tea and cake stall, with the possibility of raising even more funds for the allotments.

It was at this point that **JS** called upon the vice-chair, **SG**, to chair the meeting and all the committee stood down.

**SG** then read out the nominations for committee positions and membership.

Chairperson – Jacky Stennett

Treasurer and Committee member– Dave Stennett

Secretary – Isabel Horn

Minute & web pages - Dave Wignall

Committee members -

Jane Keane

Christine Farmer

Sarah Mather

Stuart Gibson

Elizabeth Westhead

Tony Dagnall.

**SG** put the position of chairperson and the nomination of Jacky Stennett to the meeting for a vote.

The meeting voted Jacky Stennett unanimously to the position of chairperson.

**JS** then took back the chair of the meeting and the meeting voted on each position and committee members

Treasurer and Committee member– Dave Stennett Unanimous

Secretary – Isabel Horn Unanimous

Minute & web pages - Dave Wignall Unanimous

Committee members -

Jane Keane Unanimous

Christine Farmer Unanimous

Sarah Mather Unanimous

Stuart Gibson Unanimous

Elizabeth Westhead Unanimous

Tony Dagnall. Unanimous

**JS** then thanked all of the committee for volunteering and looked forward to working together during the next 12 months.

**SG** then addressed the meeting, expressing, on behalf of the allotment membership, their thanks to especially Jacky, Dave, Isabel and the rest of the committee, for their hard work, going out to meetings, holding stalls, seeking funding, arranging events, bringing in money for the benefit of the Association and keeping the allotment site running. Thank you.

**JS** then closed the meeting thanking all for attending.

The meeting closed at 2030hrs.