Jacky Stennett (**JS**) Chair, Dave Stennett (**DS**) Treasurer, Ruth Coupe (**RC**) Sec., Dave Wignall, Sarah Mather, Isabel & John Horn, Gail Blackburn, Geoff & Margaret Brayshaw, Mica Goldstone, Lesley Roberts, Jon Baugh, Peter Eccles, Elizabeth & Alan Westhead, Derrick Walls, Phyllis Duffy.

**JS** opened the meeting at 13:00hrs and welcomed all.

**Apologies**

Stuart Gibson, Bernie and Albert O’Hara, Neil Cartmel, Kathlyn Stevens, Beverly Craven

**Minutes of previous meeting** 31/01/16 were accepted without amendment by the meeting.

**Matters arising** from previous meeting

The gas man is planning to return this week to finish the tea room gas fire.

The solar power supply – the electrical work (lights, sockets) has been completed, panels have been installed on the container.

The trench (between the container and tea room has been dug – thanks to the ‘Trench Fairy’!

Cables need to be installed.

Thanks to Neil, Dave S, Peter, John and Steve for their work.

The tea room ceiling has now been insulated and plaster board fitted. It now needs painting and *volunteers are being sought. Can you paint? Contact the committee if you can help.*

Toilet – water building up in the tank, resulting in the toilet not working correctly. No further action has been taken yet due to the weather, but, it is suspected that the tank is letting in rain water. *Volunteers are needed to dig around the tank in order to check if the tank is damaged. Contact the committee if you can help.*

**Chairperson’s report**

Not a great deal to report this month, still early in the season.

Kingcote Park dog show is planned for 05 June 2016. More information will be available nearer the time. The LPAA usually have a stall at the event selling produce from the allotment site.

**Site Report**

Plots 22, 31 and 50 have been given up and the tenants from 46 have moved to plot 31.

JS introduced Jonathon Baugh, the new tenant of plot 46, to the meeting.

Plot 50 had been offered to the disabled person on the waiting list, but being at the end of the site and not having a car, he was not able to accept this plot.

**Secretary’s Report**

RC had found that The Woodland trust gives away 7 trees to communities on application.

JS to check out their application process online.

**Treasurer’s Report**

DS distributed his monthly report.

We had received estimated water bills of £271. This was strange as the water has been turned off since November and only the standing charge was expected. DS contacted the water company and has now received new bills, as anticipated and they have now been paid.

The account balance (cash and bank) is £7880

Miscellaneous items (£106) include the hot pot from the AGM and rent from the community plot (this does get paid back into the accounts).

**AOB**

JS reminded the meeting that the 12 month trial of the LPAA to do without a ‘site representative’ was now over. The activities performed by a ‘site representative’ had been taken on by the other members of the LPAA committee. Therefore, the rules of the LPAA have been amended, to remove reference to ‘site representative’.

John Horn raised an issue regarding plots left in a poor condition after the tenant has given up. There were currently two plots left in a poor state. It has been left to the members of the LPAA committee to clear up the mess left by the tenant. This should not be done by them or any other member of the Association.

A discussion followed with the result that it was not known how to make a tenant tidy up the plot before they left.

Suggestions included… A £50 deposit from all new tenants (as Blackpool Federation request); Charge the previous tenant a ‘clear-up’ cost; Eager new tenants would be willing to clear the plot.

What was decided was the importance of the plot inspections and that the committee to have the discretion of allowing the incoming tenant a number of months’ rent free to enable it to be tidied.

*The membership voted to agree to give the committee the option of allowing a rent free period to new tenants.*

Plot 38 does have a number of ‘holes’ that would take rubble/hard-core. So if you have any, then please fill in the holes on plot 38. Do ask a member of the committee first.

Mica informed the meeting that the Layton Bee Project are holding an information event, hive inspection and building a new hive. Anyone who wishes to learn about bees, find out what is going on would be welcome. Date – Saturday 2April 2016.

DS – 2 full sheets of plasterboard are spare and available. Anyone interested?

DS – The man who delivers the manure has a flailer (hedge cutter) and would be able to cut the hedge at the front of the site to a manageable height. This would not be done until after September as they are not permitted to cut hedges between February and September due to nesting birds.

JS informed the meeting that a plot inspection will be taking this week.

JS – Reminder that the main fundraiser for the site is ‘Open Day’. To be held on the last Sunday in July. A small group will be formed to plan for this event and an email will be sent out after Easter asking for everyone’s support. Please do consider how you can contribute to making this year’s event a success.

JS closed the meeting at 13:40hrs

**Next meeting – Sunday 24 April 2016 at 1pm in the tea-room** followed by an Open-Day planning meeting.