Attendees:

Jacky Stennett (**JS**) Chair, Dave Stennett (**DS**) Treasurer, Isabel Horn **IH** (Sec.), Dave Wignall (**DW**) Min Sec, John Horn, Derrick Walls, Christine & Michelle Farmer, Albert O’Hara, Stuart Gibson, Gail Blackburn, John Bishop, Christine Penistone, Mark Owen, Louise Beavers, M Swarbrick

**JS** opened the meeting at 13:30hrs and welcomed all.

**Apologies**

Bernie O’Hara, Alan & Elizabeth Westhead, Alison & Shirley, Janet, Dave, Denise, Bev, Martin, Kathlyn, Alison, Peter Eccles, Sarah.

**Minutes of previous meeting** 26/04/2015 were accepted without amendment by the meeting.

**Matters arising** from previous meeting

Fence and encroachment, behind plots 13 & 14 – An email has been received from Principal Legal Officer at Blackpool Council, Neil Mackey, stating that ‘work to secure the boundary and retain the adjoining land will commence shortly’.

On site machinery – On-site machinery has been checked and returned from the dealer/garden machine shop in St. Annes – Webster’s at a cost of £246.28. This is a major saving on the charges that Salisbury’s made a couple of years ago for checking the machines at over £600.

The Container (at the rear of plot5) is now open as our shop. With the grateful thanks to Allan Brown on plot 21A and his apprentice DS, the container has been kitted out with wooden racking. And what a good job has been done to make the most of the space available. Cost of materials was £210.64 and this was funded from the Layton Bee Project (£150) and from Association funds.

The intended changes to the tearoom have been put on hold, as our landlords, Blackpool Council, have asked for our proposals. JS has drawn plans and these have been sent to Neil Mackey with an explanatory email from Isabel. We now have to wait for their agreement before we progress further.

Following a discussion of the proposals – new full length RSJ, level floors with ready mix concrete and addition of a propane fire – it was agreed by the meeting that we should progress in anticipation of agreement by the Council.

John H did raise the issue that there was a lack of information on the proposals (and that these kept changing) and details of specific work timescales or dates. He felt that the membership should be kept informed of the work and asking for specific date & times so they could help. JS stated that some aspects of the proposals and work plans changed dependant on the situation or information received. Based on this, she asked how the membership should be kept informed. After comments from the meeting it was agreed that emails should be sent, asking for help on a specific date and time. It was then up to the members to read their emails and turn up to help on the date/time informed.

**Chairperson’s report**

JS reported that she had attended the Friends of Kingscote Park meeting on 18/05/2015. They will be holding a dog show next Sunday 7th June 2015 at the Park. LPAA have been invited to have a stall at the event. Donations of jams, chutneys, plants, rhubarb etc. would be welcomed.

JS has been contacted by a lady from Social Services. They were starting a scheme with clients referred to them, who were able bodied but were ‘lacking in confidence’. They had an interest in outdoor work and were being offered to assist tenants in working their plots. JS told Social Services she would bring this offer to our next meeting. A discussion followed where the advantages and disadvantages of the offer were considered. It was decided by the meeting that when JS receives a promised follow-up call from Social Services, the questions raised (insurance, responsibilities, weather factors etc.) would be asked and feedback to the meeting.

**Site report**

There have been some plot movements. Matt Moore (5) has given up his plot (time issues) and Andrew Baxter (27B) has handed in his key (after 30years on site). Louise Beavers (1A) is taking on plot 5 and Denise & David (27A) are taking on the other half of the split plot 27B. The result is that plot 1A is now vacant. This will be offered to the person at the top of the waiting list.

A plot inspection took place this week with one cultivation notice being issued.

**Secretary’s report**

No reply has been received from Democratic Services regarding our invitation to the Mayor to open our Open Day on 26th July. If they were not available, then alternate has to be considered.

Whilst John was cutting the grass at the bottom of the site, he was spoken to by one of the site neighbours from Lakeway. She said ‘What a pleasure it was to sit in her garden and look out over the allotments’. This was most welcomed in view of the comments made by another neighbour last year.

JS stated that this demonstrates the hard work that all on site have contributed, but special thanks to John for how well the bee area now looks and suggested that other plot holders go and have a look at that area.

**Treasurers Report**

DS distributed his account summary report.

There was £9097.73 cash and bank.

The bank has stated that they do not want to send paper statements and wish to move to on-line statements. DS asked if this was acceptable. The meeting agreed that this seemed to be the way forward and ‘online paper copies were acceptable.

Water meters were read this morning and 75m3 have been used this month.

As an exercise, DS informed the meeting that this month, with just over 5” of rainfall and 12000m2 of plot area let. That equates to 1531m3 which would have cost £2503. Water harvesting was discussed and all were encouraged to catch as much as possible.

Albert did point out there was no incentive to catch water and it was deemed by some easier to use the hose than a watering can. DS reminded the meeting that the Federation do not allow the use of hose pipes except to fill a water barrel – not the direction we would not wish to take at this time and if everyone was careful this possibility would be avoided.

JS did state that those that catch the rain off greenhouses and poly tunnels can offer skills to those that currently don’t.

Shop sales this month were £280. Compost was on order and expected this week

**AOB**

JS informed the meeting of the intention to put a fence around the container allowing all round access to the container for maintenance.

Some ‘crusher run’ was also needed to provide access to and around the container as it was extremely slippery in that area, especially when wet.

Open day committee have been working on plans for the day and John will report at the next meeting.

Mark asked all plot holders that if they noticed, whilst passing his plot, any issues they see with the chickens, if they could please contact him ASAP. He will put his contact details on the notice board.

**Next meeting Sunday 28th June 2015 at the allotment tea rooms 13:30hrs with BBQ after – weather permitting.**

JS then closed the meeting thanking all for attending.

The meeting closed at 1430hrs.