Attendees: Jacky Stennett (**JS**) Chair, Toni Dagnall (**TD**) Site Rep.

Dave Stennett (**DS**) Treasurer, Dave Wignall (DW) Min. Sec.,

Michelle Farmer, Derrick Walls, Shirley Horn, Mica Goldstone (**MG**), John Horn, Isabel Horn, Michelle & John,

Apologies: Matt Moore, Christine Farmer, Jane Keane

JS opened the meeting at 1335hrs and welcomed all for attending.

**Apologies** were reported as above.

**Minutes of previous meeting** 27/04/2014 were accepted by the meeting with the addition of Mark Thornton (plot 38) to those that had assisted in spreading the crusher run at the top car park.

**Matters arising** from previous meeting

Planned meeting with Simon Lawson of CVS had to been postponed but has been rescheduled to Thursday 29 May 2014 on site. Jane Keane has agreed to meet with Simon. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the options of applying for two grants - one for the bee project and the other to improve the site road.

JS informed the members that the current road surface, although had been improved by filling in pot holes, was still in a poor state. It had been the reason a wheelchair user / plot holder had given up their plot (remains on the waiting list). Additionally, a current plot holder had sent a letter to the chairperson putting a passionate case for road improvements to be made. JS explained that an estimate had been received from WH Tarmacking for £9900+vat.

A number of questions were asked and JS replied that a ‘proper’ job was needed to ensure that the road would last and include drainage.

JS then asked the membership if they wished the committee to continue in making progress towards obtaining a new site road. Following a show of hands, the membership voted unanimously in favour.

Open Day – As Isabel had suspected, the static owl display booked and paid for, had let us down and returned the monies paid. (They were now known to be displaying for 2 days at Barton Grange!) But again, Isabel had come up with an excellent alternative – the RSPCA, who bring animals’ onsite. Thanks Isabel. Another addition for the Open Day will be Gail’s granddaughter, who is making bracelets for the craft stall. Thanks to her.

There are only 6 tenants who have yet to sign their tenancy agreements.

**Chairperson’s report**

JS was a ‘Friend of Kingscote Park’, and at their last meeting attended, she had agreed to the LPAA having a table at their Dog Show on Sunday 8th June. For this event there was to be a charge of £10/table. As the LPAA had never been charged for a table before and the funds would go the Kingcote Park to finance other events. The membership agreed to contribute the £10.

Produce show. There had been a meeting with David’s Slack Allotment to discuss the Produce Show. JS & DS had now been joined by DW and Neil Cartmell. There will now be additional section – Children’s section (Baguleys really wanted this section) to include: - Miniature garden (two age groups), Best Sunflower and mis-shapen veg. David’s Slack had managed to get Poulton Rotary Club to sponsor this by providing trophies.

An issue that has arisen in the flower section. For health and safety reasons and for equality in display, glass and china vases are not ideal. A proposal seeking authority from the membership was to purchase (between LPAA and DS Allotment) 20 medium and 20 large plastic Bikini vases, which would offer fairness in display and safety. After a discussion it was agreed by the members that they be purchased and the funds restored from show takings.

Site toilet - It had been identified that the site toilet was not functioning as expected. Matt Moore had recently raked the tank and confirmed that there was a lot of fluid, above the vent pipe level. DS explained the working of the toilet and although it had been raked regularly, it was five years old and perhaps was over used. The tank needed emptying and the cost was likely to be about £150. After further discussion, the meeting agreed to the expenditure and DS would seek quotes.

**Secretaries report.**

JS informed the meeting that there was currently no secretary (an email had been sent out by JS seeking a volunteer) and DW had agreed to temporarily act as minute secretary.

**Treasurers Report**

Before the treasurers report, JS informed the meeting that following a number of issues on site and that JS & DS needed to get some ‘own time’ back into their lives, it was a huge decision by DS to resign from the committee, but continue, if agreed, as treasurer.

The meeting applauded his decision and thanked him for his continued role as treasurer.

DS distributed his monthly and summary accounts and reported that all invoices were paid. Water usage for April was £120, this month it is anticipated to be more than double at £300.

The large misc. expenditure and income was due to the ‘bee project’ loan being made and repaid. With £6500 in the bank and £162 in petty cash accounts, LPAA accounts were in a good position. DS informed all that further details are available – just ask. Thanks DS.

**Site Rep report**

TD reported we have 2 new tenants – Krys & Anna on plot 49 and John & Tracy on plot 22. Plot 15 is currently vacant. There are 27 people on the waiting list.

The bottom car park is now looking much better. Thanks to John & Isabel for catching the chaps with the road burnings and further thanks to John, Isabel, Jacky, Liz, Alan & Dave for spreading it out. Thanks again to John for creating the pretty path from the car park to the nature area.

Everything is ready for the fencing contractors and thanks to Derrick and Frank for taking down the required vegetation.

It has been discovered where the dog is getting on to the site and a roll of chicken wire should resolve that problem.

The watercress sign at the dyke area is in place for this year until the plant is established.

Thanks TD

**AOB**

**Bee Project**

MG reported that there had been visits from Layton School and that they have gone well. A couple of stings but all enjoyed. Thanks to John and Mica.

Isabel & Mica have written some information about the project to be sent to local schools and groups.

With Jacky and Toni’s help, Tim and Neil from the Council agreed that the bee project were to be given the plot they are situated on. Papers are currently being drawn up. This will not affect other plot holders who are free to visit anytime, but it will ensure the future of the project.

An invitation for anyone who wishes to learn more about bees or the project or if they know of any interested schools or children’s groups – scouts/guides, then they should email Jane.

Mica wrote a piece for the Gazette about the project and it was published on Monday 19th.

Still looking at funding for a container which would allow space to be created that could be used as a suitable room by visiting groups.

Open day – hope to have an observation hive and for the future an interactive area protected by insect mesh. Thanks Mica.

Derrick raised the issue of plot holders leaving hosepipes connected, having left the site. In the last few days, he has disconnected 2 hoses that were left connected and turned on with water dripping away. Isabel also raised the issue of dripping hose connectors and leaking pipes. On their own not much, but collectively and over time it can cost the LPAA and tenants a lot of money. JS reminded all tenants of the rules and please use common sense to save us all water and hence, money.

JS raised concern about maintenance on site. It was apparent that once again, maintenance is being left to the same few people. There was a discussion involving all, with outcome that if all tenants would spend 15 minutes performing site maintenance through the year, it would not always fall on the same few people. Whilst within all tenancy agreements, there is a requirement to look after the front of tenants plots, very few were doing this. Michelle volunteered to use the strimmer on a section of the common areas. A number of ideas were proposed and JS agreed to consider those raised in hope of ‘sharing the load’.

TD raised the issue of finding dead frogs and hedgehogs on site. 3 dead hedgehogs had been found recently in addition to the 3 found earlier in the year. After a discussion it was thought that one cause was due to the use of non-wildlife friendly chemicals, e.g. slug pellets. The chemicals could also have impact on the bees.

TD then proposed the introduction of a new rule banning the use of non-wildlife friendly chemicals (e.g. slug pellets) from within the boundaries of the LPAA site. This was seconded by Michelle and voted on unanimously in favour by the meeting.

In the absence of a secretary, JS & DW were to agree the means of communicating this rule to all tenants.

JS asked the meeting, as she had been asked by a tenant, “Do we have too many meetings?” The feeling of the meeting was - in the summer months, when a lot was going on, the meetings were needed. Winter months were different as there was not much activity.

JS then reminded the meeting of the need for a secretary. One reply had been received, apologising but that they were still working full time and when they retire, they would reconsider.

DS reported that 6 new keys had been purchased (£9.56 each) and the spare lock refurbished

(£22). It was planned to put the spare lock on the gate and have the main lock refurbished.

Michelle asked if the loo lock can be refurbished and numbers repainted. DS agreed to have a look at the lock and see if he could clean it up and repaint.

DS informed the meeting that entry forms are available for the Produce Show from him, on-line and Baguleys. The show is on 30/31 August 2014.

The LPAA Open Day is Sunday 27 July 2014

The next meeting is on Sunday 29 June 2014 13:30 hrs. To be combined with an Open Day planning meeting.

JS closed the meeting at 14:40 hrs.