Attendees: Jacky Stennett (**JS**) Chair, Dave Stennett (**DS**) Treasurer, Isabel Horn (**IH**) Sec., Dave Wignall (**DW**) Min. Sec., Derrick Walls, John Horn, Michelle (42), Ruth, Alison (16), Derek (15), Gail, Shaun, Alan & Lyn.

JS opened the meeting at 1330hrs and welcomed all.

**Apologies** Stuart, Matt, Christine, Peter, Bernie, Albert, Shirley, Jane, Christine, Toni & Gaynor.

**Minutes of previous meeting** 24/08/2014 were accepted without amendment by the meeting.

**Matters arising** from previous meeting

Produce Show – This was a great success with increased entries, especially in the baking section. The only hiccup was the tables we had booked had been loaned out to another event but we were able to borrow tables from St. Marks. The Association ran a produce stall at the show (cost/donation £10) and took £141 for Association funds. Thanks to all those who contributed produce for the stall.

The perimeter fence has been completed and trees removed. Unfortunately the site’s neighbour, behind plot 13/14, have, in the process of repairing their path, encroached onto the allotment sites land and damaging the fence. This has been reported to Blackpool Council along with photographic evidence. It is also suspected that dog excrement is being ‘lobbed’ over the fence from these same neighbours. The current advice from the Council is not to enter any conversation with the neighbours concerned and leave it to the Council’s legal department.

**Chairperson’s report**

* JS attended a ‘Friend of Kingscote Park’ meeting.
* An Open Spaces Network meeting.
* With Isabel, we attended the CVS AGM. At this meeting there was entertainment provided by Blackpool Music Academy, which was very good. Isabel visited their office a couple of days later and booked them for our next Open Day.
* Aspired Futures tea party at Kensington House – the Association loaned them our marquees – which a very nice thank you card was received.
* An Aspired Futures coffee morning at Grenfell Avenue.

One of the main reasons for attending these meeting is to maintain the networking and make new useful contacts.

Following the Produce Show, Ruth invited the Association to have a free stall at the Winter Gardens at the Vintage and Handmade Craft event. With Dave, John and Isabel’s help on the Saturday ran a stall selling jams, chutney and crafts left from our Open Day. The stall took £114.70. An excellent result and thanks to all that made it possible.

Blackpool Victoria Hospital had put to the Area Forum for a Residents Only parking proposal

in the area – Plan B. This would not only affect the streets around the hospital but also those around the allotment, including David’s Slack allotment and the Layton shopping area. There was a lack of information about this at the previous Area Forum, but there are a number of petitions to object to the proposal being taken. DS has created a petition and is asking plot holders to sign it. Objections to the proposal have a closing date of 17th October (moved from 10th). It is anticipated that this item will be discussed at the next Parklands Area Forum at Bathurst Avenue on 16th October. Stuart Gibson will be attending to represent the allotment. All plot holders who live within the Parklands area are urged to attend to give voice objecting to the plan.

**Treasurers Report**

DS distributed his monthly accounts summary.

The Produce Show made £417.35. The cost of the vases will need to be reimbursed to both Allotment Associations. It is proposed that the residue be put in a ‘Produce Show’ account for future year’s shows – up to a determined amount – then any amount above that level be paid to the Allotment Associations. The ‘Show’ bank account has yet to be opened (waiting for Association’s AGM’s) as signatories will need to be made, which may differ from current officers of the two Associations.

With Baguleys possible closure, work is progressing on looking for a new Show venue. A possible venue is Blackpool Cricket Club. This is in a central location, has a large area, parking and a bar. We would be allowed to have a tea/cake stall, but there is no covered accommodation. The chairperson from David’s Slack Allotment has a contact in the army, who may be able to provide a large tent and possibly, additional attractions. Gail informed the meeting that she does have contact details for Fulwood Barracks, from when the LPAA made a contribution following our Open Day a few years ago.

Accounts for the association – Banked £300. Show and Winter Gardens stalls income banked.

Quarterly water bills paid – we have two metered supplies - £527 & 425.

DS stated that we were within the estimated annual cost for water use. DS answered questions about water supply informing the meeting that the water is normally turned off November to March (reduces risk of frozen and burst pipes) and there would be the standing charges still to pay.

Cash - £218.25 & £6141 in bank.

A couple of weeks ago, the Association were contacted by B&Q. They said they had some wood and a greenhouse that we may be interested in. DS visited the B&Q store on Plymouth Rd. and was offered some 3x2 wood (shed bases), two cycle stores, a 7x6 shed and 10 greenhouses. With the help from John H, Albert, Shaun, DW & DS the items were brought back to the site. The shed is to be used by the Bee Project and the other items are for sale…

Timber @ 40p/length, 6@8x6 greenhouse - £30 each, 2 @ 6x6 greenhouse £25 each and 2 @ 6x4 greenhouse £20 each.

*Do note that there is no glass with the greenhouses*, although the instructions and fitting are included. We have decided to make a small charge for these items to help with Association funds and deter them being sold for scrap.

For an 8x6 greenhouse it would cost about £250 for glass. If polycarbonate was used, it would cost about £100. Enquires about the purchase of any of these items please see a committee member.

For our Open Day, we had to borrow a couple of marquees, which due to their colour (dark green) were not successful for our use. DS stated he had been on the Gala Tents website and they are offering some marquees (similar to the LPAA’s) at a seemingly good price. A 12m x 3m @ £375 (normally £529) and 12m x 4m for £405 (£629).

DS, having spoken to other committee members, proposed that the LPAA purchase the 12x4m marquee. The meeting voted in favour of going ahead to purchase.

**Secretaries report.**

IH reminded the meeting of the LPAA AGM was to be held on Wednesday 29th October 2014, at St Kentigern’s social club.

At this meeting, all the committee members stand down and elections are held for each committee position.

Any tenant can stand for any committee position and their nominations are required a week before the AGM. i.e. Nominations must be submitted to the secretary by 22nd October 2014

Proxy votes are acceptable if unable to attend the AGM. Please contact the secretary for details.

There will be a hot pot supper available at the AGM. *Please let the secretary know if you are attending.*

Bonfire night – Wednesday 5th November 2014. The Association will be having a bonfire on site and all are welcome to attend. There will be a BBQ and fireworks. You may bring your own fireworks but they will be, for safety reasons, only be allowed to be lit in the area designated and by the responsible person assigned by the committee.

The sites generator will be used to provide power for lighting.

**Site report**

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

A site inspection took place on Friday 5th September 2014 by four members of the Association’s tenants. Four weed and two cultivation notices were issued. There were some mitigating circumstances and they have been allowed additional time to comply.

Matt Wood (40a) has given up his plot and Dave Wignall (40b) has moved up to a full plot by taking on Matt’s ½ plot.

The the last site inspection of this growing season is planned for the end of October.

**AOB**

Seed orders for 2015. JS stated that they were expecting the Kings Seed catalogue soon, but had received the Thompson & Morgan catalogue this week. These will be put in the tea room for anyone’s interest.

Ruth informed the meeting that she knew of 70 used honey pots that may be available and could the Bee Project make use of them. John and Shaun said they would be most gratefully received and use be made of them.

A question was asked if a date for a home school group to visit the allotments and see the bees could be made. John and DS were agreeable but not before March next year as the bees were not very active now and they should not be disturbed until March.

IH agreed to take on responsibility for the site mobile phone for the next few weeks.

JS asked if anyone had a spare mobile phone as the current site mobile was no longer holding its charge. Gail stated she had a spare and would give it to JS.

The meeting closed at 1425hrs.