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

Dave Stennett (**DS**) Treasurer, Isabel Horn (**IH**) Sec., Dave Wignall (**DW**) Min. Sec., Christine Farmer, Michelle Farmer, Derrick Walls, Shirley Horn, Mica Goldstone, John Horn, Michelle Swarbrick, R Coupe, T Walsh, Christine & Alison Penistone, Kryztof Warzecha, Anna Antonini, Derek & Linda Reid, Debra Green, David & Lesley Roberts, Sean Cassidy, Margaret & Geoff Brayshaw, Janet Smith, Sharon Perkins, Tracey Wells.

Apologies: Elizabeth Westhead, Alan Coyne, Peter & Jo Eccles, Kathlyn Stevens

JS opened the meeting at 1332hrs and welcomed all for attending and gave a warm welcome back as secretary to Isabel Horn. DW to continue as minute secretary.

**Apologies** were reported as above.

**Minutes of previous meeting** 25/05/2014 were accepted without amendment by the meeting.

**Matters arising** from previous meeting

The meeting with Simon Lawson of CVS took place on Thursday 29 May 2014 on site. Jane Keane and IH met with Simon. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the options of applying for two grants - one for the bee project – to purchase a container for storage and then open up the tea room and shop into a space that can be used as educational area. The other, to improve the site road. Two quotes for this project have been received, £11,800 & just over £15,500. The higher quote was preferred as it offered all that the site needed. Unfortunately, these quotes were above the maximum of £10,000 allowed under the Awards for All grants. Simon has passed to IH links to Funding Central, which details other grants and funding. Once IH has overcome her internet access problems, she will investigate options.

Friends of Kingscote Park held a dog show and the LPAA had a stall at the event. Less the £10 cost, the Association made a profit of £52.10. JS thanked those that helped run the stall, set the stall up and contributed. She went on to say that we could not do anything like that without their help and commitment. Thank you.

Blackpool Produce Show. The website is up and running, leaflets and entry forms are ready and will be taken to Baguley’s this week. David’s Slack had their meeting and agreed to fund half the cost of the vases. Another Show meeting is planned for Thursday 3rd July at the No.4.

The Site toilet has now been emptied. The cost was £150 + vat, £180. This was the lowest cost found by DS. When it was emptied, there were things in it that should not be in it!, which is the possible reason for it not working correctly. These items included sanitary towels and pop bottles. A notice has now been put up in the toilet explaining that only items that should go down a toilet should go down the toilet!

JS then raised comments that had been received following the decision of the meeting last month to ban the use of non-wildlife friendly chemicals. Whilst the rationale for the ban was correct, it was the way a new rule was introduced that affected the whole site, without the input from all plot holders. TD pointed out that all plot holders are aware of the meetings and are all free to attend and have their input and make comments, if they wish to make a point, then come to the meetings. A meeting wide discussion followed on this issue with a number of alternatives proposed – notices put up, proxy votes. John Horn then reminded the meeting that within the rules of the Association, the decision made last month, met the Association

rules that a minimum of seven plot holders must be present at any vote, which there were.

With further discussion, it was the consensus that: -

An item that required a vote by the members of the Association, would be raised at one meeting, included in the minutes of that meeting, and voted on at the next meeting. The exception would be where an item has time constraints and the delay of a month may be unacceptable.

TD reminded all of the importance of keeping aware of the business of the Association by reading the minutes of the Association meetings.

A discussion then took place on the availability of wildlife friendly slug pellets – at a reasonable cost. Was it the slugs eating the pellets that were killing the frogs and hedgehogs by eating those slugs? At the end of a good discussion, there was no easy answer to controlling pests in a wildlife friendly manner. IH was given the name of Alan Scholfield, an organic producer, Bradshaw Lane, Pilling, who may be able to provide advice on organic pest control.

**Chairperson’s report**

JS attended a ‘Friend of Kingscote Park’ meeting on 9/6/14, the day after the dog show. Comments were made to the organisers re lack of posters advertising the event. They explained that posters had been put up, but they had been vandalised and taken down. The reasons for this were not entirely clear but suspected.

The LPAA’s marquees had been loaned to Layton School for their fun day. The Association ran a stall selling produce, jams & plants and made £93.20. (Last year made £80.20). JS thanked all those that helped especially Mica, Isabel, John, Derrick, Dave and all the others who contributed. Although it was short notice that was given of the event but, not only was the money raised useful to the Association, it also allowed the opportunity to advertise our Open Day at their fun day.

JS put a scarecrow in Sailsbury Wood last weekend, on the Saturday. This was fortunate as on the Friday night a number of exhibits were vandalised and set on fire. Although it was a competition, the main purpose for the LPAA scarecrow was to advertise our Open Day.

**Secretaries report.**

IH reported that she had arranged with Phil Morton a date of 17/7/14 to bring down the tree and then will contact the fencing contractor to complete the fencing.

Best Plot competition – Thursday 10th July 2014. The plots are inspected by external independent judges, who are invited to the Allotment and look at ‘all’ the plots.

* Award of Excellence.
* Best Plot - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.
* Best Newcomer award.

The Best Newcomer is any plot that has been taken on since the last competition – in this case July 2013.

Besides a cup, presented on Open Day, there is the kudos of having names on the ‘Hall of fame’ board in the tearoom.

The committee would like all plots to be considered. But if you feel that you do not wish to participate, then lock/close off your plot on the judging day and let us know.

**Site Rep report**

TD reported we have new tenants – Michelle Canham & Ruth Coope on plot 22 and Derek & Linda Reid on plot 15.

The site is now full and there are 32 on the waiting list.

The fencing work is mainly completed. We are just waiting for a tree to be taken down and for some Blackbird chicks to fledge then the fencing can be completed. Hopefully all this work will be done before the end of the month.

The local police officer now has a key to the site allowing access if necessary.

In the centre car park, if you park near the water tap, then please leave room to allow access to the tap.

Can anyone help Alan Coyne on plot 23? He wants to trim the privet down to 6 feet and has difficulty in using the hedge trimmer. Please let Toni or Alan know.

Volunteers are being sought to tidy up the site, assist in clearing the main midden and help clearing the Beech branches in the main car park, and tidy the site.

As Open Day is getting nearer, can anyone who has anything stored at the front of their plot i.e. wood, pallets, rubbish or items to be used in the future, please dispose of it or take it onto their plot. You don’t have to allow people on your plot on Open Day, but they will have the run of the rest of the site including the road and must be kept tidy and safe.

**Treasurers Report**

DS distributed his monthly and summary accounts and reported that all invoices were paid.

Monies in bank was £4980. £553 in cash, rather a lot but with Open Day coming up, float will be needed and the event yesterday contributed £93.20.

Main expenditure this month was for the fencing materials - £1503.

Water – meters read this morning and cost of water used this month (June) was £355 and the total for the year so far is £654 plus standing charge of £12/month. This is more than last year – it has been drier.

Stock in the shop was £729.50 – so get shopping!

DS informed all that further details are available – just ask. Thanks DS.

Derrick raised comment on water usage. Plot holders were still, despite notices and warnings, leaving hoses connected and the water tap turned on, having left the site. Dripping and leaking hoses were costing all of us. When leaving the site, make sure taps are turned off and hoses disconnected. All plot holders are asked to turn off taps and disconnect hoses from taps where a plot holder has left it connected and apparently left the site.

**AOB**

An item was raised regarding car parking on the middle car park. With more plot holders using this area, space is at a premium and inconsiderate parking – parking at an angle or leaving too much or too little space was causing dints on car doors. So please do park with consideration for others.

The next meeting is on Sunday **3rd August 2014** 13:30 hrs.

JS closed the Association meeting at 14:10 hrs. and opened the Open Day meeting.

**LPAA Open Day meeting**

The LPAA Open Day is Sunday 27 July 2014. This is the main fund raiser for the Association and with more help, produce, prizes, gifts and other contributions will ensure success on the day.

Items for the tombola (bottle and others) would be welcome; these can be left in the tearoom or given to Jacky or Isabel.

Items for the craft stall are needed.

Donations of cakes/biscuits – if you can make something and bring along… please!

Scarecrow competition for all plot holders – show them on your plot.

New for this year will be clothes. Bring your (clean) clothes for a ‘Clothes Stall’. (Shirley)

John reminded the committee that it is anticipated that there will be lots of visitors and we must not run out of burgers or hot dogs. JS will speak to Sheila.

John also reminded all that no cars will be allowed on site after 10am., as the road and car parks must be kept clear. OK to drop off bulky items prior to this time, but then must be removed off site.

Help will be needed on the Saturday to put up the tents/gazebo’s and prepare your donated produce.

Publicity – A banner is hopefully to be put up on Grange Road outside Gail’s house (Thank you Gail) and John hoping to place a 7x5 banner in Layton Square that the banner printers are donating – he is currently waiting for the OK to do this from Blackpool Council.

Radio Wave will be advertising the event.

The chair of David’s Slack allotment has agreed to ‘man’ a table to advertise the Produce Show (30/31st Aug 2014) if we would do the same at their Open Day (9th Aug 2014).

DS is arranging the production of ‘fliers’ and would appreciate help in posting these through the doors in the local streets. A draw for name and address on the back of returned fliers will win a prize.

Shirley asked that if anyone has any containers (take away type food containers) to put them in the tea room as these will be useful for produce, including a ‘Blackberry pick your own’.

A percentage of profits from the day will be donated to a local charity.

The meeting closed at 14:35hrs

**List of Stalls for Open Day**

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| --- | --- |
| Stall | Volunteers |
| Tearooms | Paulette, Christine, Michelle, Margaret, Kathlyn, Elizabeth |
| Cakes | Gail & Sarah |
| Jams & Chutneys | Gail & Sarah |
| Book Stall, DVD’s | Dave |
| Burgers | Sheila & Milton |
| Vegetables and Flowers | Derrick, John & Fran |
| Plants | Lesley |
| Tombola (Open ended) | Jane |
| Tombola (Bottle) | Shaun |
| Raffle | Coral |
| Lucky Dip Middle car park | Lennon & assists |
| Craft Middle car park | Isabel & Gabrielle |
| Face Painting Middle car park | Aine |
| Cold Drinks Plot 40b | Dave & Margie |
| Veggie Burgers Plot 13 | Shirley |
| Miniature Garden Comp End of Site |  |
| RSPCA End of Site |  |
| Mica’s Bees Nature Reserve |  |
| Scarecrow Competition |  |
| Gate | Megan |