

Minutes

1. Apologies Mike Frost, Jenny Lowe, Alison Mabelleley

2. Minutes from previous meeting- still to be considered

3.

4. Membership- approximately 30.

It was agreed to set up Associate Membership for all those without allotments who wished to obtain allotments.

5. Financial statement. ~£135

6. Report on allotment status and dealings with Grainger.

Michael Parkes briefly summarised the on-going discussions with the NFAAG.

He also presented a verbal summary of the meeting of the steering committee and Grainger- these minutes would be formally presented to the association after Grainger had a opportunity to approval them.

7. The MAA response to the recent development proposals.

The MAA agreed that their position is that not a single allotment should be conceded for development. MAA also agreed that reallocation of allotments and any return of residual allotments after builders have worked over them were unacceptable. The hard work in setting them up and planting them was irreplaceable and allotments were not interchangeable pieces of ground. MAA also felt that the offer of providing tool sheds, water *etc.* on the remaining allotments was of little value- the allotments has flourished for nearly 100 years without them and the benefit did not outweigh the loss of allotments. MAA agreed that it must set up a list of all those who had recently applied unsuccessfully for allotments and would contact both the Moorpool Duck and the Savethemoorpool website to facilitate this.

There was discussion about the forth coming Residents meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> and the proposal that a committee be set up to negotiate or to consult with Grainger was discussed. Although MAA could get involved in detailed proposals for the fate of allotments/Garages/Play areas on the Valley Site, it was felt that Grainger had not yet offered anything the MAA does not already have. Moreover it was up to Grainger to offer proposals that MAA would then consider. It was not MAA's job to do Grainger's work for them. It was also felt that it might be sensible to make contacts with the Pereira Rd and Yateley allotment association to find out whether they are now oversubscribed, and to find out how the Billisely allotment association fared when their allotments were threatened recently.

It was agreed that members should pass copies of all allotment tenancies to the MAA Committee to help establish our administrative position.

It was also felt that Grainger's had bought a conservation area and should be seen to be developing this as an example of best practice in caring for a community facility (in line with their stated aim on their own website of "Corporate Social Responsibility"). That if they set up a well endowed Community Trust with the support of residents, garage and allotment holders they could justify eventually selling on the estate at a handsome profit.

It was also felt that MAA welcomed the opportunity to be represented on a committee to consider a Community Trust. Nevertheless there was unease about any group working in secrecy and that all its activity must be open and above board. It also needed to be clarified whether the committee was a negotiating or a consultation committee.

AOB

Diana Dunn and Tricia Cusack were co opted onto the MAA steering committee to help with the anticipated increased work load.

MAA also discussed self management of allotments, but felt that at this stage the question of raising allotment rents was not appropriate.