

Minutes of the Carrit Place Farm allotments
Annual General meeting held in Mortimer
Hall, Old Marston on 13th. May 1998
the meeting commenced at 7.45 PM.

Number of Persons present Eight.

Apologies for absence

Mr Bates, Mr Conway.

Minutes of the 1997 AGM read and
proposed as a true record by Mr Cann,
Seconded by Mr Wheable and vote
Unanimous.

Matters arising Water tanks the work to
convert these to Ball valve operation had
still not been completed.

Chairmans report The Chairman, Mr
Gurney presented the meeting with a
printed sheet which is shown overleaf
this was accepted by the meeting.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 1997

Once again the association has to be grateful for the hours of endeavour given by the Secretary, together with committee members Gerry Massey and Pete Savins. These three are the main people responsible for the continued success of the site and its amenities.

Last year, as many of you will have experienced, the site became a target for the arsonists. The loss of buildings and property has been considerable. Thankfully, of those affected, no one has decided to quit, and still aim to cultivate to the full again in 1998. The police and city council have all been kept informed of the situation and enquiries are still on-going. Many hours of discussion by your committee have taken place over site security, but no firm proposals or decisions have been reached. It is therefore proposed that this matter should be on the A.G.M. Agenda.

One other disappointment was the failure of the city council to inform the association of details regarding the annual allotment competition. We did manage to submit some entries, but it was all done in a rush and only 36 hours before the first judging. There was further confusion over the second judging date which was not completed to the required standard. To those allottees involved, we apologise, but stress it was due to failure on the council's part and not your association.

The use of drugs on site continues to be a problem. I would ask you all to be vigilant as associated paraphernalia is discarded without concern for others. We do have a sharps disposal box in the shed, which is for everyone's use. Please garden with care.

The police have issued a broad sheet with its suggestions and recommendations for action to be taken in the event of illegal activities being witnessed on site. These are available from the shed.

Produce from the site was generally of a good quality, and crops were heavy. It was an especially good year for potatoes, and some very large specimens were produced. The site continues to require an even greater effort by everyone with regard to tidiness and removal of rubbish. Dumping has started to be a problem, so again please be aware of any strange goings-on.

May I again remind allottees to read the main notice board as notices are displayed in an effort to keep members **officially informed**.

Thanks to our auditor.

The committee have decided that rents for 1998-99 will remain unchanged.

For your information, the association celebrates its 50th anniversary during September 1998 and special events are being planned for members to participate in. Please watch for notices and give us your support.

Roy Gurney
Chairman

May 1998

Secretary's report The Secretary Mr Cann presented a printed sheet to the meeting which was accepted.

COURT PLACE FARM ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION
1948 - 1998

Secretary & Treasurer:
Mr T.L. Cann
8 Nicholas Avenue
Old Marston
Oxford OX3 0RN
Telephone: 01865 202104

Chairman:
Mr R. Gurney
8 Clays Close
Old Marston
Oxford

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1997

There has been the usual instances of minor thefts and damage which, unfortunately, I have to report each year.

However, on a more serious note, there has been a number of instances of shed's being burnt down, mainly vacant sheds but it has still caused problems for the police, fire brigade and adjacent allottee's alike.

We have also experienced problems with cars coming on to the site without allotment business, the police has been passed details of the registration numbers and descriptions of occupants but we must all keep vigilant to this problem. This does not mean that these cars are to be approached, in fact the police are strongly against this.

Here I would like to say that Mr Gurney, our chairman, has been vigilant in getting action taken on these cars, so much so that he had his shed burnt down, something which the police also feel was the cause. It is to this end that the committee felt that the association should show their gratitude, as you will see in the treasurers report, £25 will not buy a shed or replace a tool but we hope it shows that he is not alone in this.

We have lost one or two good allottee's through ill health, Dougy Elliot just to name one, however, a positive side is that we have a number of new allottee's which we must all welcome. On the whole we again held our own, as with other associations we are getting an increasing number of female enquiries, and if anyone knows of neighbours, friends or relatives who are interested in taking on a half or whole plot let me know.

The council are again offering to clear vacant plots, in blocks of 6 or more, to encourage the uptake of allotments, and the committee is arranging to have 8 plots in the bottom field to be ploughed.

As the chairman has mentioned the competition saga I will skip over this by saying that this years competition is all in hand.

We must all thank, the usual few for their commitment to grass cutting, toilet repairs, shop duties and general maintenance, each year there always seems a mountain of tasks to be done and generally we manage.

We are now members of HDRA, Henry Doubleday Organic Research Association, and so now have access to a number of very useful and interesting leaflets on a whole array of subjects

from composting, winter digging and wormculture (I didn't know they had their own culture myself but its the 90's and we had mods, punks and skinhead cultures so why not!!)

As the chairman has already mentioned our association is 50 years old this year and celebrations in September will be announced on the notice board, and anywhere else I can get publicity.

The Oxford allotment movement in general is on a high, some sites have waiting lists and an increased interest in plots and so we must not sit back and wonder why the young do not want allotments. Some do, and we must get out there and get them, because if we do not someone else will.

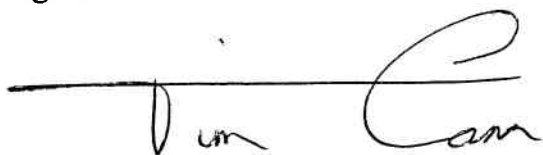
As Secretary of the Oxford Federation of Allotment Associations, I attended the NSALG, National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners, AGM in June and made some interesting contacts and met up with some old friends on the National allotment scene. There seems an increasing interest from many councils and Associations from other areas to go, as we are, self-managed.

I am a great believer in this, there are obstacles and greater responsibilities fall on those running the allotment associations, however, it enables us to have a greater sense of ownership of our allotments.

Yes we have problems, little that is not an allotment problem nationally, but we also have something we should all be proud of :-

the largest allotment site in Oxford City,
an allottee population that are friendly,
the most successful utility shed (shop) in Oxford City,
a site which is rich in wildlife; woodpeckers, foxes, kestrels (OK, yes, rabbits)

So, if you think Court Place Farm Allotments Association is an unkempt, sleeping giant, think again.



Tim Cann
Secretary & Treasurer.

Treasurer report Mr Cann presented printed sheets of our General and Rent Accounts to the meeting. These had been audited by Mr Jandy and were accepted by the meeting and are shown on the next pages.

COURT PLACE FARM ALLOTTEE'S ASSOCIATION
General Accounts for year ending 31st October 1997

Opening Stock	4430.40	Sales	4314.53
Purchases	2893.15	Closing Stock	3514.30
Trading Profit	505.28		
	7828.83		7828.83
Expenditure			
Shed Rent	114.00	Opening Balance	434.70
Electricity	66.28	Profit	505.28
Shed Security	54.95	Bank Interest	33.83
Shed Repairs	56.01	Closing Balance	1314.89
Chairmans Gift	25.00		
Stationery & Stamps	17.91		
Association Members	1.00		
Secretary's Expenses	13.34		
Secretary Hon.	50.00		
Treasurer Hon.	50.00		
	448.49		
Deposit A/c	1840.21		
	2288.70		2288.70

*Certified as a correct
Statement of the Accounts
presented
14/4/98
J J Jandy*

COURT PLACE FARM ALLOTTEE'S ASSOCIATION

Rent Accounts for year ending 31st October 1997

Rent Account:

Rent for Land	712.00	Cash in Hand	141.65
Thames Water	274.24	Bank Balance B.Fwd	1876.12
Skip Hire	95.52	Rent Received	1037.10
Petrol	63.06	Council Grant	200.00
Water System repair	50.29	Shed Rent	114.00
Federation Members	9.80	Interest	20.13
Site Maintenance	43.53		
Stationary	14.49	Carried Over:-	
Secretary Hon.	50.00	Machinery Grant	200.00
Treasurer Hon.	50.00		
	1362.93		
Deposit Account	1004.88		
Closing Balance	936.96		
Cash in Hand	284.23		
	3589.00		
			3589.00 //

*Accounts checked as a
True record of the
Rent Account for
Year Ending 31st Oct 1997
14th April 1998
J J J*

Election of officers

It was proposed by Mr Savin and seconded by Mr Wheable that the the outgoing committee be re-elected om-bloc. This was seconded by Mr Wheable. Mrs Allen declined to stand again and the chairman thanked her for her attendance in committee.

Committee now consists of.

Chairman Mr Gurney
Secretary/Treasurer Mr Carr
Minutes Secretary Mr Shahan

Committee Persons. Mr Savin, Mr Carr, Mr Mossey
Mr Wheable.

Site warden Mr Conway and Mr Ray (to
be confirmed)

Auditor Mr Jandy proposed by Mr Carr
and vote unanimous.

Rule change Due to advice from Oxford
City Council we need to change Rule 8F
to read that Dwarf stock trees can now
be planted on allotments as long as
they are purchased through committee.

The vote for this was 7 for and 1 against.

Site Security Mr Gurney explained the position
regarding our site entrance gate i.e. the
police would like us to lock it to help
them. The cost of locks and keys was
explained and to be practical, beyond our
resources.

Mr Wheable commented that to lock the
gate with all its implications was a

waste of money
Mr Savin That whenever possible the gate
ought to be closed and bolted at night.
Proposal That gate security remains as it
is closed and bolted at night
Seconded by Mr Savin and vote 7 for
and 1 against.

Shop opening Mr Conn stated that
opening times of our shop might become
erratic when there is no assistance in the
shop.

any other Business
Hedge adjacent to football field

Mr Savin reported that this hedge needs
attention to close the gaps in it. The
Parish council to be informed.

The first committee meeting to be
on 17th of June 1998 in Mortimer Hall
at 7-30 PM.

There being no further business the
meeting closed at 8-30 PM.

Shaban.
(Miss Secretary)