**MINUTES OF FAA COMMITTEE 04/06/2024**

Present at 8 Colneis Road - Nev Farthing (Host), Claire Smith, Claire Mackinder, John Austin, Guy Pearce, Keith Horn, Ray Martin, Steve Brewer, Peter Constable.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Paul Weavers

1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Accepted as distributed.

Shop at Hut 39 is performing well, an additional compost order will be required.

Felixstowe in Flower and the OFCA Summer fair went well with both Claire’s attending.

Ferry Road gate lock is broken and will in future be left unlocked. It appears the lock had been cut with bolt cutters. The pedestrian gate is OK and the hedges require cutting; this has been pointed out to FTC.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

**Item 3.1 CP Roadways**

Additional materials are required for road repairs and a request has been made to FTC. Working parties will be scheduled for later in the year with the suggestion that they be aligned with Saturday coffee and cake events.

**Item 3.2 NFGN**

FAA input has been documented by Nev and is attached for reference, see Appendix.

The plan includes additional small allotment areas east and west of the development.

CP security was discussed with an option for chain link fencing and planted hedging being seen as the most viable option. Nev will be contacting Persimmon to see if any support can be offered.

**Item 3.3 Purchases**

**Generator**

The existing generator is of limited use and it is proposed we purchase a new one.

Council funding was investigated but unsuccessful, therefore the FAA will purchase one.

John Austin has been investigating and has located a dual fuel generator with electric start at a price of around £850.

It was agreed we go ahead once details are finalised.

**Defibrillator**

It was agreed in principle we should have one on site, Steve to talk with Paul regarding options.

1. **PARTNERSHIP MEETING**

This morning's meeting was positive.

The waiting list was reviewed which continues to grow however plots have been freed up and allocated.

Additional options regarding parking were discussed using plots 152/153 once clear and plot 63 could be used for summer car parking.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A donation of £50 was made to Felixstowe in Flower.

1. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

 Current Account £932

 Deposit Account £14135

320 Membership renewals.

1. **EVENTS**

Coffee and cake will continue on the third Saturday of the month.

A BBQ is planned for Sunday 1st September, cancelling the Aug coffee and cake.

This will be a free event to FAA members. David Cole, FAA member and qualified cook for the Lions Club would be available to do the cooking and has access to equipment and supplies.

There will be a need to manage food distribution.

School visits are being planned, Kingsfleet scheduled for 3rd July , Robin and Anita Farrow to assist.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**FAA record archives.**

It was decided that FAA archive records could be stored safely in the Gardening Shed. This way will be safely held and could be made available to people. Maybe a steel filing cabinet would offer a storage collusion as would binding them in plastic to prevent deterioration.

**Newsletter**

Ready for publication

**DONM**

Tuesday 20th August - 19:00 - 8 Colneis Road

**Appendix**

Submitted by Nev Farthing

8th June 2024 Preliminary submission from Felixstowe Allotment association (FAA) concerning the proposed North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood development submitted by Neville Farthing Chair of the Association. Felixstowe Town Council (FTC) owns five allotment sites with a total of 492 plots. The largest being the Cowpasture complex at Candlet Road which has 308 individual plots all rented by local residents. Furthermore, there is and has been a waiting list for allotments to my own knowledge for the last 12 years at least. The Allotment Association has 320 members, the vast majority being at Cowpasture. With an additional 2000 homes arriving the developers should consider national guidelines as regard increasing plot numbers. At the request of East Suffolk Council [ESC] the Allotment Association attended the inaugural meeting of the Stakeholders group held at the Felixstowe town hall on 11th January and hosted by the consultants LDA, commissioned by ESC for this project. We have attended subsequent meetings of this group and also the first public meeting held at the Orwell hotel on 3rd February. We have also seen the minutes from the Citizens Panel which has met on four occasions to date. The below views are based upon the meetings and conversation the Association has had with ESC personnel and the consultants LDA plus sight of other documents offered for our view. It is our firm belief that the Cowpasture allotment site in Candlet Road should not be developed in any way. It sits alongside both phase 1 & 2 of the Persimmon development (Trelawny Place) plus it shares a boundary with Abby Wood and The Grove, both areas to be retained for public use and very likely to be extended as part of this project. It is our request that a full secure boundary fence be placed around the entire Cowpasture site with improved security at the vehicle and pedestrian gates. This position has been made known by the association at every Stakeholder meeting to date. There should be no public access to this allotment site. Since January a large number of maps have been produced by LDA. A more recent one included two areas earmarked for allotments. The exact detail is not clear, one on the east side and one on the west, the actual space allocated is specified but a first view suggests they are small in size, perhaps no bigger than 30 plots each. These new sites should be set up and hard landscaping completed well ahead of hand over to new tenants. We accept the devil is in the detail and we very much look forward to having more plots available for the residents of the Town. Being brand new it goes without saying that we would wish to see secure boundaries, some car parking, water, electric etc and we would be more than happy to assist further at the design stage. Would these two new allotment sites be “given over” to FTC to administer as per the current situation? We also read about a community farm, and in principle welcome its arrival in Felixstowe albeit the actual running and stewardship of it would need to be better understood in due course. The association appreciates the consultation stage is to continue into the summer and changes are possible, but we hope the above addresses our main concerns based on information to date. It is also our intention to canvas our members in greater detail to elicit their views as regard the development impacting current allotments. It is an opportunity for new allotment sites and opportunities to grow more vegetables and fruit etc in the town.