

MILLFIELD ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 21st November 2016 at The Limes

PRESENT: Sandra Todd (Chair), Graham and Sheila Lennox (Secretary), Pauline Miles (Treasurer) plus 8 members.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Were received from Mike & Gill Barnes-Webb, Margaret Adams, Lisa Bradford, Ann Morris, Carol Ratcliffe and Shirley Bullock

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM: The Minutes of the AGM held on 20th November 2015 were accepted as a true copy (proposed Terry and seconded Mike Callaway) and signed by the Chairman.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: ST presented her report for the year.

- The first social event of the year was the ploholders barbecue in June. A few brave souls came along in spite of the bad weather. It was a much better day for the Open Day and Scarecrow Competition and we welcomed the mayor to judge. We made a good sum of money. It was nice to see tenants with young children at the Halloween Bonfire on a lovely evening.
- Pauline Miles won our best plot competition as well as Faversham Best Plot. Well done to her. The Committee entered the site for RHS Its Your Neighbourhood once again and we received the top score of Grade 5. For the first time we entered Wild About Gardens run by Kent Wildlife Trust and received a Silver, and the bee plot was entered separately and won Silver as well due to Pete and Carol Bullen's hard work. We were part of Faversham's entry for South and South East in Bloom and the town retained a Gold award.
- Unfortunately the security fence was cut and items were taken from sheds. The police were informed and the fence repaired.
- Three poplar trees and the old TV mast have been removed at the end of the site.
- Faversham Town Council have now taken ownership of the allotments and all the allotment committees have been in discussion with them.
- Thanks are due to our accountant and the committee for their work.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT & APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS: PM presented the audited accounts (copy with the Minutes) the main points of which are:

- Income for the year was £7877.84 which includes a grant of £4750 towards the social building.
- The sale of honey made a profit of £108.77 but this will not be the case going forward as there has not been any honey harvested in 2016.
- The income from rents was £1506.20
- Total expenditure for the year was £2171.34

- A new cultivator was purchased costing £369.95 and a lawnmower costing £179.99
- Our water bill was £321.98
- The balance in the bank at 31st October 2016 was £15190.33

4. PROGRESS ON SOCIAL BUILDING: ST reported that due to the size of the proposed building it has been necessary to comply with Building Regulations. The architect now has the report from the building regs consultant and we are in a position to get quotes for the concrete base. We need to commence work on this as we do not want any grants to be reclaimed.

5. NEW TENANCY AGREEMENT: GL reported that as Faversham now have the freehold of all 3 town allotment sites all agreements need replacing. The committee are still negotiating a new Management Agreement with the Council but a new Tenancy Agreement which is agreeable to both the Council and Millfield has been agreed and new Tenancy Agreements will be issued to all ploholders. GL reported that the new Tenancy Agreement is broadly in line with the old one although it has been tightened up a little. We have agreed that bonfires can only be lit after 3 p.m. and when the wind is blowing away from residential areas. There is also a limit on size of shed but this does not apply to existing sheds. There is also a clause requiring fruit trees to be on dwarf root stock and nut trees are not to be planted.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The officers confirmed that they were willing to stand for re-election and there being no other nominations they were unanimously re-elected.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) PM asked if all ploholders could be encouraged to harvest rain water in view of the size of our water bill.

b) GL suggested that a welcoming letter be given to all new ploholders with items of information such as the above and it was suggested also pointing out the need to maintain fences and the grass bordering paths/tracks.

c) There are spare compost bins at the allotments behind St. Catherine's vicarage and these could be made available to us. Jon Hamer will arrange for their collection.