

Millfield Allotments Association

7th AGM November Fri 28th 2008 7:30pm
At the Age Concern Hall, Faversham

Minutes

1. Present : Sandra Todd (Chair), Carol Bullen (Treasurer), Matt Care (Secretary), Alan Stanford (Site warden) plus 21 Members of Millfield Allotments Association
2. Apologies were received from Rob Longman (Seed Secretary)
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: These were accepted as a true and fair representation of the previous AGM and signed off by the Chairman and Secretary

4. Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising

5. Chairman's report (Sandra Todd):

A full transcription of this is available on file, but main points are as follows

- Sandra described progress so far on applications for grants to fund fencing of the main public footpath through the site
- She also noted that there had been break ins and vandalism, plus the theft of produce from the site
- Social events – the Open Day and Scarecrow Competition, The Best lot Competition and the Bonfire (the latter rained off, so the fire will be burned at the next opportunity.
- South and South East in Bloom judging.
- The Lady Dane Tenants and Residents Association event held partly in aid of the Allotments Association.
- Progress on Grants for the Toilet Block
- The possibility of a raised bed area for disabled gardeners.

The Meeting favoured keeping the Best Plot competition to the same format as in 2008, i.e. "popular vote" rather than by independent expert judges. It was seen as a good thing, certainly in terms of promoting inclusion and community.

6. Financial Report (Carol Bullen): A set of audited accounts were presented by CB who drew attention to the following points

- Income £7780.37 incl. £5000 grant from Amicus Housing and £1000 from Faversham Town Council
- Expenditure £1850.73
- Total reserves at Nov 2007 £7858.13
- A full set of accounts was submitted and is on file

CB noted that pressure of other commitments has lead her to step down as Treasurer.

She further noted that the new Auditor used in 2008 had proved rather expensive, and that the Committee would be looking for a different auditor for 2009.

7. Approval of Accounts : These were approved unanimously

8. **(Re)-Election of Committee:** Treasurer Carol Bullen stepped down, and was thanked and given a small presentation by the Committee and Members. She agreed to handle the December 2008 rents collection in conjunction with the new Treasurer as part of a hand-over. **Pauline Miles** volunteered to cover the Treasurer position and was formally voted in. The remaining Committee were re-elected unanimously. A vote of thanks to the Committee was proposed and seconded.

9. **Key Money.** AS noted that the key money cash in hand was unchanged from 2007, being £30 plus 4 keys

Any Other Business (and Open Forum)

- Nathan Carr noted that KCC were offering small quantities of native hedgerow trees to good causes.
- ST described the proposed footpath fencing as being 6'6" weld-mesh which will run from the existing new fencing at the southern end of the site, down both sides of the public footpath. The quotation had been made at the height of the scrap-metal boom, and ST felt there may be grounds to re-negotiate the price now. Installation of the fence has been priced assuming that MAA members do much of the ground work, i.e. we remove all old fencing and clear access for contractors. ST noted that this is quite a big job and might need a few volunteer days.
- ST noted that KCC had promised to repair the dangerous steps at the site's Eastern corner but had not done so so far.
- Barry Inge asked that when the new fence was re-installed, could his plot (59a) boundary be re-aligned with Dave Fulbrooke's (60) to allow him access. There followed some discussion about where we wanted gates through from the main path onto blocks of plots.
- MC noted that the waiting list currently sits at 21. There was a short discussion on our "admissions policy" – what plots new starters are allowed, how we deal with existing plot holders who want to expand etc. Siobhan Timoney suggested there might even be a "Beginners' plot" saved for this purpose to let people get a taste while they were waiting on the waiting list.

Closure of meeting. The meeting was closed at 20.10pm for refreshments and the raffle

Year 2008/9 Committee will be

Sandra Todd (Chair)
Pauline Miles (Treasurer)
Matt Care (Secretary)
Alan Stanford (Site Warden)
Rob Longman (Seed Secretary and Container Key Holder)
Nick Gurr (Container Key Holder)