

Millfield Allotments Association

Minutes of 13th AGM held on Friday 21st November 2014 at the Chimney Boy Faversham

PRESENT: Sandra Todd (Chair) , Graham and Sheila Lennox (Secretary), Pauline Miles (Treasurer) plus 20 members

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from: Shirley Bullock, Maureen Brown, Pauline Donovan, Ruth Cronk , Barry Inge.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM: The Minutes of the AGM held on 22nd November 2013 were accepted as a true record. Proposed: Alan Stanford, seconded Geoff Forsyth. Matters arising to be dealt with under Any Other Business.
2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sandra presented her report for the year (copy with Minutes).
 - Improvements to be done are erection of 4 bays by the railway line, provision of a further raised bed, remainder of the hedgerow saplings to be planted. The Chairman asked if members would help with work parties to complete these tasks.
 - The social events had been successful. There were more scarecrows than ever before. Everyone came together to make the Open Day and Barbeque a success after a storm the night before upended the gazebo. The Halloween Bonfire was very enjoyable.
 - Pauline Miles just missed out on winning Faversham Best Plot. We did not hold a Peoples' Choice competition and the Committee vowed to work harder to make this happen next year. The RHS Its Your Neighbourhood judge awarded us a top mark of 5 and we helped Faversham retain its silver gilt for South and South East in Bloom.
 - Our project for the Community Hut is about to go to planning. We have £1000 grant money ready to start our funding for this.
 - The Committee will be meeting with Faversham Town Council representatives shortly to discuss change of ownership of the site.
 - The new system for deposits which was agreed at the September meeting has been started with new tenants taking plots and this is proving acceptable.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: Pauline presented her report for the year (copy with Minutes).
 - Income for the year amounted to £3426.92. Of this £286.90 was raised at our Open Day and £184 from sale of honey. £1000 grant towards the social build is included in this total.
 - Expenditure for the year amounted to £1
 - 407.14 giving a surplus for the year of £2019.78.
 - The balance at the bank at 31st October 2014 is £4307.41

The accounts were approved.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: There being no other nominations the Committee was re-elected to office unanimously. There was a suggestion that we have a Social Secretary to help with organising the social events and nominations were asked for.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

a) Sandra outlined the background regarding the takeover of the allotments site by Faversham Town Council from 1st April 2015. The site used to be in the ownership of Faversham Borough Council but transferred to Swale Borough Council in 1974 on local government reorganisation. It appears that this should not have happened and Faversham is taking them back. The land was subject to a compulsory purchase order in 1947 when the houses were built but 5 plots were later sold to a neighbour. He did not want to buy the plot with the TV relay station as there was the problem of taking down the mast. Graham outlined the Community Right to Bid process under which he is applying for the right to bid on the allotment site and on the plot of land which houses the old TV relay station building and mast.

The members present had some concerns about the transfer of ownership:

- What is Swale responsible for which will pass to Faversham Town
- Will Faversham Town Council want to build on the site in future
- Will Faversham Town Council put the rents up
- Who owns and has a responsibility to maintain the access road into the site

b) There has recently been a number of plots become vacant and the committee confirmed that all 10 have now been re-let.

c) Jonathan Scott thanked the Committee for all their hard work.

d) There was a request for more events to include children – suggestions were a sunflower competition and a competition at the Open Day for a miniature garden or an item made with produce.

e) Members enquired if there could be manure delivered to the plot. The Secretary confirmed that enquiries are currently being undertaken into this.

Meeting closed at 20.10