

Millfield Allotments Association

3rd AGM November 25th 2004
At the Age Concern Hall, Faversham

Minutes

1. Present : Sandra Todd (Chair), Carol Bullen (Treasurer), Matt Care (Secretary), Alan Stanford (Site warden) plus 10 Members of Millfield Allotments Association
2. Apologies were received from Shirley and Gordon Bullock, Richard Squires and Rowley Burford
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
 - The Rotovator was serviced as planned
5. Chairman's report (Sandra Todd):

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

 - Thanks to all volunteers supporting work parties, plus working individually outside of work parties
 - The main road has been widened which helped when the container was delivered
 - Container arrived June 2004. Trellis and climbers are now in
 - Site now has Poop-scoop signage and bins (Thanks to Fred Boreham for signs and also notice board
 - Swale Boro have widened the gate and may provide fencing for the main entrance road in the new financial year
 - Thanks to John Gregory for replacing the heavy unwieldy gate-latch
 - 2 new gates have been installed. More fencing is to be built to discourage the public from straying off the public footpath
 - KCC have repaired the steps and installed signposts following pressure from MAA members. ST noted that the turf used to "line" the treads was probably not such a good idea
 - Liz Cottuli-Care was thanked for the very professional Management Reports (for 2002 and 2003), now presented to Swale
 - MAA had taken part in a Mammal Survey
 - MAA has joined the Kent Wildlife Trust, thanks to an anonymous donor, and may expand into recording birds in 2005
 - MAA has received a response from Swale re our application to be included in the Conservation Area (rejected)
 - Our Open Day and Scarecrow Competition had been well received, judged by Mayor Cindy Davies
 - The Summer Barbeque was also very successful
 - ST apologised for the poor publicity of the Bonfire Night, which led to poor attendance and some members missing it. We will do better in 2005
 - There had been a bad outbreak of vandalism in August which had involved the Police, but the police view was that individual plot holders should report their own incidents. Ospringe Allotments had suffered similarly. ST encourage plot holders to approach any "likely lads" as long as it was safe to do so
 - In the 2005 November Show of Fav. Hort. Soc, MAA were beaten into 2nd place in the Wheler Shield competition by an entry from FHS

itself, for Collection of vegetables. None the less, our entry had been a very high standard and the judge had commented that several items would have won their classes had they been entered in classes for single types of veg (i.e. the parsnips, carrots and cauli's were the best parsnips, carrots and cauli's in the Show). ST thanked all participating plot holders for making veg available

- A few plots were likely to come vacant at renewal, but there is currently a waiting list. The vacant plots will be offered to waiting list names first

MC proposed a Vote of Thanks to ST for the presentation and for all her hard work and leadership through the year

6. (Re)-Election of Committee : The existing Committee were re-elected unanimously
7. Nominations for the Committee : There were no new nominations
8. Financial Report (Carol Bullen): A set of audited accounts were presented by CB who drew attention to the following points
 - Opening balance £558.86
 - Income £1899.62
 - Expenditure £1906.94
 - Total reserves at Nov 2004 £551.54
 - A full set of accounts is attached
9. Approval of Accounts : These were approved unanimously
10. Key Money : AS noted that he held a float of approx £30 but that more keys needed to be cut

Any Other Business (and Open Forum)

- Hazel Burford raised the issue of untended neglected plots spreading weeds into neighbouring plots. Following a discussion it was proposed that the Committee set a tougher policy on offenders, issuing "improvement notices" whereby plot holders are given a month to tidy their plots, or risk having their plot re-let by the committee to a more diligent tenant. There was a brief discussion on whether it would be appropriate for the Committee to use sprays or employ Volunteer work days but no final decision was reached
- A flyer prepared originally for distribution to local houses in 2004 telling of the site's existence, inviting residents to rent plots, and voicing concern about local children making mischief / putting themselves in danger, will be sent out at the start of Summer 2005 school holidays
- The organisation of Social events will be left till the first meeting in March 2005
- The Committee asked that no more rubbish be dumped along the Eastern boundary bank as this was now high enough and starting to encroach on the road. MC will produce signs

Closure of meeting. The meeting was closed at 20.15pm for refreshments and the raffle

Year 2003/4 Committee, now approved to continue into 2004/5

Sandra Todd (Chair)
Carol Bullen (Treasurer)
Matt Care (Secretary)
Alan Stanford (Site Warden)