

Millfield Allotments Association

9th AGM November Fri 9th 2010 7:30pm
At the Age Concern Hall, Faversham

Minutes

1. Present: Sandra Todd (Chair), Pauline Miles (Treasurer), Matt Care (Secretary), Alan Stanford (Site warden) plus 14 Members of Millfield Allotments Association.
2. Apologies were received from Rob Longman and Hazel 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
 - 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
 - It had been a quiet year
 - KCC had laid hard surface paths
 - There have been occasional break-ins and vandalism, all of which were reported to the police, but these had been very infrequent compared to the days before the fences had gone up.
 - The waiting list for plots is currently approx 50, or 2 and a half years
 - ST thanked all volunteers who had done maintenance work, especially Barry Inge for gate repairs
 - Social events – ST thanked all those who had turned out, especially to the very cold barbeque.
 - The site's best plot competition had been won by Jeff Forsyth, with Millfield plots coming 2nd and 3rd in the Town Competition.
 - ST is currently researching grants for the raised beds and obtaining quotes.
 - ST thanked the committee for their continued hard work.
6. Financial Report (Pauline Miles): A set of audited accounts were presented by PM who drew attention to the following points
 - It had been a quiet year
 - Grants had been obtained for fencing and toilets. There had been some extra expenses on plumbing for the toilet.
 - Bees are discussed later and separately
 - Water bills were up due to the toilet.
 - There had been some profit from (King's) seeds sales
 - Current balance is £519.65
7. **Approval of Accounts:** Approval of the accounts was proposed by Matt Care and seconded by Jeff Forsyth. These were approved unanimously. The meeting acknowledged the work put in by Treasurer Pauline Miles and she was thanked and complimented accordingly.
8. **(Re)-Election of Committee:** The existing 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 2009, being £30 plus 4 keys. AS also has a spare tap key.

Any Other Business (and Open Forum)

- The honey bee hive project had not gone well in 2010, had yielded no honey and some fruitless expense on new queens, leaving us with no active colony. Some expenses had occurred including £398.05 on equipment and fencing (of which £250 was met through grants) and there is now a nicely established bee garden. There was a lively discussion on whether to continue with the project given a projected £60 cost for new colony/queen in 2011. Dave Pilcher and Jeff Forsyth tabled concerns based on their experience. The meeting decided to continue with the project (based on a majority vote) and asked the Committee to report back on progress to each open meeting.
- Millfield is the cheapest rent site in Faversham and have not increased our rents for a number of years. We face increasing costs through insurance (public liability, work parties, toilet and container. MAA will also have to contribute to improvement works such as the raised bed plots and the renewal of water pipes and fencing. The Committee proposed to increase rents by 50p per rod per annum at the 2011 AGM and thereafter by 10p per rod per annum. This proposal was agreed unanimously by the meeting.
- There was some discussion around how to cope with gluts of produce including suggestions to give to charities, restaurants or to put them on a "help yourself" table for dog walkers.
- AS raised the issue of water being wasted during hot weather. The meeting felt it would be good to re-iterate to tenants the need to be careful with water and a possible need to warn abusers off.
- JF has notice boards ready to go up.
- There was a brief discussion around the 'unkempt plots' process
- There was a brief discussion around the problem of dog mess on the public footpath.

Closure of meeting. The meeting was closed at 20.35pm for refreshments and the raffle

Year 2010/11 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)