

Millfield Allotments Association

Minutes of 10th AGM Friday 18th November 2011 7.30p.m at the Age Concern Hall, Faversham

1. PRESENT: Sandra Todd (Chair), Pauline Miles (Treasurer), Sheila & Graham Lennox (Secretary), Alan Stanford (Site Warden) plus 16 members of Millfield Allotments Association.
2. APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Shirley and Gordon Bullock.
3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the AGM held on 9th November 2010 were accepted and signed by the Chairman.
4. MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.
5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: A full transcript of Sandra's report is available on file. Main points are:
 - The year had started badly with several break-ins. Although little was taken there was damage to padlocks and the wire fencing. The police had provided 9 alarmed padlocks which were given to tenants who had been affected. Thanks to Derek and Kevin Burbridge and Barry Inge for assisting with repairs.
 - We had a successful programme of social events which included Scarecrow Competition and Open Day, Summer BBQ, People's Choice Best Plot Competition (congratulations to the winners Trudie and Brian Crampsey of Plot 7B) and Halloween Bonfire.
 - We had a visit from judges of South and South East in Bloom as part of Faversham's entry.
 - Raised beds for the elderly and disabled have been completed and one has been taken.
 - Thanks to those who have helped with work parties and with other maintenance jobs around the site.
6. FINANCIAL REPORT: The treasurer (Pauline Miles) presented a set of audited accounts (copy on file) and drew attention to the following points:
 - The balance in hand is £2345.46.
 - Grants had been obtained for the provision of the raised beds and associated amenities. The water butts and bench inside the shelter have not been paid for at the date of meeting.
 - The profit from the seed order this year is £47.05.
 - There was an expense of £90 to replace locks after the break-ins.
 - The expenditure on insurance is reduced in 2011 as we are not now including the container and toilet on the policy as they have to be insured for £50,000, a sum which is in excess of their value.
7. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS: The accounts were approved. Pauline was thanked for her work.
8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE: Sandra Todd was re-elected as Chair and Pauline Miles as Treasurer. Since the departure of Matt Care Sheila and Graham Lennox had jointly been carrying out the duties of Secretary and there being no other nominations for the position it was proposed (Sandra Todd) and seconded (Pauline Miles) that they be elected to the position. Carried unanimously.
9. KEY MONEY: AS noted that the key money remained at £36.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Sandra circulated an extract from the report of the South and South East in Bloom judges which included the comment: ***"There was an obvious sense of community but it was sad to see so many plots not fully cared for"***. This is disappointing and reflects badly on Millfield Allotments Association as an organisation. In addition there is a waiting list (currently about 45) of people who are keen to take up plots and it is not fair to them to have unworked plots at the site. There has been a suggestion from North Preston that 2 of their members inspect our site and 2 members from MAA would inspect theirs and report on uncultivated plots. There was discussion about the steps taken if a plot is identified as being not adequately cultivated. Those present agreed that we should take up the suggestion from North Preston and trial this for a year.
- Sandra reported that it had come to her notice that Faversham Town Council was due to discuss the running of all four allotment sites in the town at a meeting on 21st November 2011. The proposal was that Faversham Town should take on the running from Swale either on a 99 year lease or by buying the freehold of the land from Swale. This could have repercussions in respect of rent but we do not have any information on this at present. ST encouraged members to attend the council meeting if possible.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.