

Millfield Allotments Association

Minutes of 11th AGM Friday 16th November 2012 at the Age Concern Hall Faversham

PRESENT: Sandra Todd (Chair), Pauline Miles (Treasurer), Sheila & Graham Lennox (Secretary), plus 13 members of Millfield Allotments Association.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Shirley and Gordon Bullock, Roger and Pauline Donovan, Dave Fulbrooke and Alan Stanford

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM: The Minutes of the AGM held on 18th November 2011 were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING

i) With reference to item 10, on their visit this year South & South East in Bloom judges reported that Millfield Allotments site was much improved in tidiness.

ii) With reference to item 10, Faversham Town Council is going to purchase all 4 allotment sites in the town from Swale Borough Council for the sum of £10. As Millfield and Stonebridge are statutory sites this matter has to go before the Secretary of State and this process will probably take 18 months to complete. Representatives of Faversham Town Council together with Laurence Young (Faversham Enterprise Group) and the Green Spaces Officer from Swale and his Assistant visited Millfield in the summer as part of a programme of visits to all the town allotment sites to see what they were taking on, and what any liabilities would be. Feedback was that it was felt that Millfield was the best site in the town.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman presented her report for the year.

- Thanks go to all those who helped fill the raised beds with soil.
- There have been break-ins during the year. The 4 foot fence which starts at the entrance to the site needs to be replaced with a higher fence so that intruders cannot climb over and there needs to be more security along the boundary with the farming land. (see any other business item 7 i)
- There has been a water leak during the year and the toilet was blocked. We have installed a new water point at plot 8 and another is planned next to plot 48.
- It has been a successful year for the bees with honey being produced but the events programme was affected by the weather. The Scarecrow Competition went ahead in May, the Barbeque had to be rescheduled and the Halloween Bonfire was cancelled. Congratulations to Nick Gurr on winning the People's Choice for Best Plot Competition. A plot from North Preston won the Faversham Best Plot Competition.
- The Chairman thanked all those who have helped in many different ways at the site.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented her financial report for the year, a copy of which is filed with the Minutes. Main points of note:

- We have a balance in the bank of £1847.40 which is slightly less than last year.
- Fund raising events have not been well supported and have not raised much income.
- The sale of honey raised £78 and together with the grant of £225 this has meant that the bees have not cost us a lot.
- At £150 the water leak was expensive to repair even though we did our best to keep the cost down by doing as much of the work as we could.

5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The Accounts were approved.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There being no other nominations the Committee was re-elected to office.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) It was clarified that only those who pay £2.50 to join the National Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association receive the Kings seed catalogue. This catalogue is only distributed once a year and those taking on an allotment may have to wait until the following year to get a catalogue. A proportion of the money spent on seeds goes into our funds.
- b) Dates of events for 2013. These will be:

Scarecrow Competition and Open Day	Saturday 5 th May
Barbeque	Saturday 6 th July
Halloween Bonfire	Saturday 26 th October
AGM	Friday 22 nd November
Open Meetings	14 th March
(Thursdays at the Market Inn)	13 th June
	12 th September

- c) Work parties will be advertised as needed. The Committee would like to compile a list of names of those willing to take part in these. Joining a work party entitles you to £1 off the annual rent to a maximum of £5 in one year.

- d) The Faversham Society have asked us if we would open the allotments for their Secret Gardens scheme. After discussion this was agreed with a majority in favour. One spin off from this could be a chance for us to raise funds through plant sales etc.
- e) Community Building – there is a proposal to buy a building for use as a venue for meetings, plant and seed swap events. This would be sited on a vacant half plot next to the toilet. We would seek grants to fund this. After much discussion it was agreed that this proposal should go ahead with a vote of 10 in favour and 6 against. ST will enquire of Swale Borough Council as to whether planning permission will be needed.
- f) There has been a suggestion that the empty half plot next to the communal fruit trees be planted with trees to extend the ‘orchard’ area. After discussion it was agreed by unanimous vote that this plot be re-let to the next person on the waiting list. There is the possibility of planting some communal espalier trees around the social venue.
- g) It was agreed not to hold any events during National Allotment week as we will be involved in Secret Gardens. This could be considered next year.
- h) The Committee want to clarify the Tenants Agreement which states that a tenant may not have a second plot if there is a waiting list. This was written at a time when only full plots were allocated. As we now give new tenants a half plot to start with they may have another half upon request if they are maintaining their half to a good standard. A tenant with a full plot may not have another if there is a waiting list. GL confirmed that the waiting list currently has 41 names on it, the wait being about 2 years.
- i) The Woodland Trust have been giving away hedgerow packs to community groups in celebration of Jubilee Year and we have been successful in gaining a large pack of 420 trees comprised of hawthorn, cherry, rowan, birch, hazel and dogwood complete with rabbit guards and canes. These will be planted along the top of the bank starting at the end of the site near the aerial. A working party will be needed. This will aid security at the site. We are obtaining a quote for replacing the 4 foot fence at the entrance to the site with a 6 foot one with barbed wire on top.