

# Millfield Allotments Association

4<sup>th</sup> AGM November 18<sup>th</sup> 2005  
At the Age Concern Hall, Faversham

## Minutes

1. Present : Sandra Todd (Chair), Carol Bullen (Treasurer), Matt Care (Secretary), Alan Stanford (Site warden) plus 13 Members of Millfield Allotments Association
2. Apologies were received from Hazel Burford, Richard Squires and Rachel Somers
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

- Large water bill due to a leak, now fixed.
- Attempts to win a discount concession from Macknade Garden Centre (so far without success).
- Problems with bonfires and complaints from local residents which led to all tenants receiving a letter from the Committee setting out guidelines.
- Problems with children causing mischief and collecting slow-worms and lizards. ST asked all tenants to stay vigilant and if possible to challenge any children who are straying off the public footpath.
- Our very successful Open Day and Scarecrow competition, judged by Sue Hawkins; BTCV compost advisor (previously she had given tenants a demonstration of composting techniques).
- Also our Summer Barbeque and the Bonfire Party.
- An anonymous benefactor has once again paid MAA's subscription to Kent Wildlife Trust.
- Swale Boro' Council have agreed to fence the main entrance road from the main gate to the top car park within the current financial year.
- Peter Bullen was thanked for the production of some very professional A3 size signage covering restricted access areas and public footpaths.
- In 2006 MAA must apply for Planning Permission for the container to become a permanent change (currently only on 3 year temporary permit). This application expected to cost over £200.
- ST thanked all those who voluntarily maintain the site, both in formal work-parties, and by working individually.
- ST noted that the site has a few plots currently vacant and asked that if anyone present knew of anyone interested in taking up a plot to let them know.

6. (Re)-Election of Committee : The existing Committee were re-elected unanimously
7. Nominations for the Committee : Rob Longman was elected to the new position of "Seed Secretary" to be in charge of the association's joint order to Kings Seeds
8. Financial Report (Carol Bullen): A set of audited accounts were presented by CB who drew attention to the following points

• Opening balance	£551.54
• Income	£1048.97
• Expenditure	£642.06
• Total reserves at Nov 2004	£958.45

- A full set of accounts was submitted and is on file

9. Approval of Accounts : These were approved unanimously

10. Key Money : AS noted that he held a float of approx £20 plus keys in stock

#### Any Other Business (and Open Forum)

- There was a discussion of the process of ordering seeds jointly. Tenants should pass cheques made out to the Association to Rob Longman who will compile the joint order, pass cheques to Carol Bullen, who will then make out one cheque to Kings Seeds. Rob can be contacted on Faversham 530396.
- The committee tabled the following recommendation(s) re Rent Increases for year 2006/7
  1. That Rents for a 10 rod plot be increased by £5 per annum at the next AGM (Nov 2006) ; this was agreed by majority vote, 9 for, 3 against
  2. That Members attending organised work parties in 2006 be allowed £1 per work-party attended OFF their 2006/7 rents up to a maximum of £5. Members seen by the Committee to have performed "significant individual work tasks towards maintaining the site" would also be allowed the discount(s). This was approved by 8 votes for, nil against
  3. That the tougher policy towards unkempt plots, first introduced in 2005, be continued, in particular that the Committee will inspect the site at least 4 times per year, and will (unless the Committee is made aware of special mitigating circumstances) write to the tenants of any neglected plots, giving them 1 calendar month in which to improve their plot. After that time, no further warning will be issued, and the plot will be deemed to have been abandoned, and will become vacant and available to re-let. This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.
- ST noted that an unknown broad-band company had been surveying the aerial/mast. Swale Borough Council have instructed us that on no account are they to be given keys to the site or access to the aerial
- ST tabled a proposal to obtain grant aid from "Partners in the Community" for the building of a toilet block. However, since grants may depend on the production of professional architect drawings and planning consent, which could cost £1000-£1500 there is an issue in whether this can be included in the grant (and payable even if the application is rejected)
- Nick Gurr has agreed to service petrol driven machinery during the winter months. MC will provide him with a copy Container Key
- MC noted that MAA is now accessible as a link from Faversham.org website, is subject of a "blog" (on-line diary) and now has an e-mail address ([Millfield1@btinternet.com](mailto:Millfield1@btinternet.com))
- A question was raised over whether pheasants can be legally shot or trapped if causing a nuisance on site. Rob Longman agreed to look into the legal situation

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

Year 2004/5 Committee, now approved to continue into 2005/6

Sandra Todd (Chair)  
 Carol Bullen (Treasurer)  
 Matt Care (Secretary)  
 Alan Stanford (Site Warden)  
 Rob Longman (Seed Secretary) – new position