

held
14th Nov
2002

Millfield Allotments Association

First AGM November 2002

Minutes

1. Present : Sandra Todd (Chair), Carol Bullen (Treasurer), Matt Care (Secretary), Alan Stanford (Site warden) plus 17 Members of Millfield Allotments Association
2. Apologies were received from Mrs Astbury, Mr Hover and Shirley and Gordon Bullock
3. Chairman's report (Sandra Todd):
 - i. ST welcomed everybody
 - ii. ST then detailed how the MAA had come into being, noting the site's history of neglect and vandalism, describing how the idea of self-management arose plus the support given to her by Carolyn Baldock (at that time a tenant), and the calling of the first meetings.
 - iii. These meetings launched MAA and the first (and current) Committee were elected
 - iv. MAA separated from Stonebridge Allotments Society, as agreed with Swale Boro', set up an Action Plan, started the fortnightly working parties which worked on car parks, the Wildlife Area
 - v. ST noted that MAA had purchased a Rotovator and a bush-cutter / strimmer, lockable water taps.
 - vi. ST listed other achievements of MAA in it's first year, notably the Newsletter, the web-page, Bonfire parties, the Scarecrow competition and the Open Day
 - vii. The MAA gained a first prize in it's first entry to the Faversham Horticultural Society Show (ST thanked Ian Cowans, Hazel Burford, Dave Pilcher, Steve Spicer, Sue and Barry Hunt, and Shirley and Gordon Bullock for their contributions to the winning entry
 - viii. ST noted that the site now only has 1 and two half-plots currently vacant
 - ix. Finally ST thanked all those who have contributed to, and supported, the improvements to the site
4. (Re)-Election of Committee : The existing Committee were re-elected unanimously
5. Nominations for the Committee : There were no new nominations
6. Financial Report (Carol Bullen): CB noted that the current Building Society balance was £750.26. Income (£1348.58) had come mainly from rents (£560), Membership subs (£64), Separation fee from Stonebridge (£400) and the clearance of a windfall Poplar tree (£250). Expenditure (£598.32) had included the purchase of the rotovator and strimmer (£233.39) and the taps (£199), rent

and rates (£47.16) and "Repairs and maintenance" (including JCB work) of £301.98. CB presented the accounts audited. These were approved unanimously

7. Approval of Accounts : see above

8. Open Forum (Items for discussion)

- i. Proposed Constitution. MC submitted a draft constitution for MAA. This was approved unanimously (proposed by Judy Brown, seconded by Mr Burford)
- ii. Proposed Tenancy Agreement. ST submitted a proposed Tenancy Agreement, which was also approved unanimously (prop MC, sec CB)
- iii. Joining the National Association. The meeting approved that ST move to join the National Association as soon as possible
- iv. Growing the Association – with a view to providing toilets, a building, a container for tools etc. Following discussion, this was deferred while the Committee looked at prices for the various options
- v. Charitable status. MC advised the meeting to avoid this as our turn-over was not sufficient to yield any advantages, and experience had shown that the Charities Commission were slow and unhelpful to deal with.
- vi. Wildlife Area. All agreed that this had not really worked out as planned and the plots involved could now be reverted to allotments. ST agreed to contact the house-owner whose property backs onto this area, who had expressed an interest in renting the plot.
- vii. Plot 58 Apple trees. It was agreed on a vote (9 for, 3 against) to make the apple trees (recently pruned by AS) in plot 58b "common property", renting only the other half of this plot (58a)
- viii. Any other items: There were none

Any Other Business

1. The committee were asked about signage of dog-fouling signs. AS has stickers, which he will put up in appropriate places. ST agreed to contact John Reason at Swale re supply of a dog-waste bin at the main gate
2. The Committee were asked to procure "Private" signage for the bottom gate
3. Irene Jennings thanked the Committee for their efforts in improving the site

Closure of meeting. The meeting was closed at 19.27pm

Year 2001/2 Committee, now approved o continue into 2002/3

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