

# Millfield Allotments Association

2nd AGM November 2003  
At the Age Concern Hall, Faversham

## Minutes

1. Present : Sandra Todd (Chair), Carol Bullen (Treasurer), Matt Care (Secretary), Alan Stanford (Site warden) plus 18 Members of Millfield Allotments Association

2. Apologies were received from Stephanie Woolf, Charlie and Carol Beer and Shirley and Gordon Bullock

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. Chairman's report (Sandra Todd):

A full transcription of this is available on file, but main points are as follows

- MAA has joined the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG), thus obtaining insurance required for our agreement with Swale Boro'
- Top Gate bought and installed (ST thanked helpers)
- Composting demo by BTCV
- MAA obtained redundant bedding plants, old leaves and bulbs from Swale's landscape contractor, for composting
- Problem in spring with children hunting slow-worms. Thanks to Doug Brookman for signage
- A dog waste bin has been installed by the entrance gate, thanks to Fred Boreham for signs shortly to be in place
- MAA was visited by Swale in Bloom as part of Faversham's "Community involvement" promo. MC has certificate
- Millfield site achieved full tenancy and went on to carry a waiting list during 2003
- Improvements to top carpark, Bomag used to roll hardcore (Thanks to Pete Bullen), then 60 tonnes of tarmac scalpings spread over (Thanks to all helpers)
- Netting and stakes bought to improve fencing
- MAA was nominated for the Kent Volunteer Awards
- MAA obtained a grant to enable us to buy a storage container to be sited on North-end carpark. Planning permission was obtained despite small number of objectors locally, thanks to Liz Care for speaking on our behalf at Planning Meeting. Container is on 3 year temporary permission
- Track at entrance is being widened to take container lorry
- On the Social side, MAA has held an Open Day, Scarecrow Competition, Summer Barbeque and Bonfire Party
- MAA obtained first prize in Wheler Shield for veg at Faversham Horticultural Society's November Show. Donors of produce thanked
- Site currently has just one half plot vacant

MC proposed a Vote of Thanks to ST for the presentation and for all her hard work and leadership through the year

5. (Re)-Election of Committee : The existing Committee were re-elected unanimously

6. Nominations for the Committee : There were no new nominations

7. Financial Report (Carol Bullen): A set of audited accounts were presented by CB who drew attention to the following points

• Opening balance	£750.26
• Income	£928.62
• Expenditure	£1120.02
• Total reserves at Nov 2003	£558.86

Repairs and renewals comprises mainly gates and carpark  
The current balance includes no 2003/4 rents  
"Donations and misc. income" for 2003 is much lower than 2002 because the one-off money from our split-off from Stonebridge and the clearance of the fallen poplar tree was not repeated in 2003

8. Approval of Accounts : These were approved unanimously
9. Open Forum (Items for discussion)
  - There was a suggestion that the Plot 58 communal apple trees be reverted to an allotment, or felled. No change was agreed
  - A related suggestion that the site sell surplus produce was agreed, and Liz Care suggested that the apples could be gathered and stored before they were stolen, and then sold this way
  - Toilet Provision. Construction of the planned composting toilet proved prohibitively expensive. ST will look at getting quotes for a simpler cess-tank arrangement and grant aid
  - ST proposed increasing MAA subs by 50p to £2.50 to cover the increase in NSALG rates. All agreed

#### Any Other Business

1. Plot 7 is experiencing some impact from track widening. ST will try to get Swale to fund fence repairs
2. MAA will obtain black plastic sheeting once we have our container. *Justin* John Culver suggested builders DPC sheeting may be cheaper and more durable
3. Container costs are as follows
  - i. Container £695
  - ii. Vehicle/haulage £130
  - iii. Locking plate £50
  - iv. VAT £153.13
  - v. Total (up front) £1028.13

Delivery would be in 5 working days, and receipts would be rapidly transferred to Jan West at Swale for prompt payment. Grants will cover £848, so that the venture will have cost MAA approx £400 including the planning application. This purchase was put to the vote and passed with no votes against

Preparation of the site was discussed with ST stressing the need for early completion before the weather deteriorated. John Banton can obtain wooden blocks. A working party was arranged for 2-4pm Sunday 23rd Nov.

4. Judy Brown suggested that we video some of our working parties for the record
5. Dave Pilcher noted that the rotovator needed servicing at cost of approx £150. It was agreed to collect rents, and then complete the container purchase before proceeding with this
6. It was noted that two of the water taps had had their collars removed. No action was agreed as to repair these requires buying whole new taps. The situation will be monitored

Closure of meeting. The meeting was closed at 20.40pm for refreshments and the raffle

Year 2002/3 Committee, now approved to continue into 2003/4

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