

Millfield Allotments Association

Minutes of 12th AGM Friday 22nd November 2013 at the Age Concern Hall Faversham

PRESENT: Sandra Todd (Chair), Pauline Miles (Treasurer), Sheila & Graham Lennox (Secretary) plus 15 members of Millfield Allotments Association

APOLOGIES: Roger and Pauline Donovan, Mike Callaway, Shirley & Gordon Bullock

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM: The Minutes of the AGM held on 16th November 2012 were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING

a) The 4 foot fence adjacent to the entrance of the site has been replaced with a 6 foot security fence.

b) The Faversham Society did not hold a Secret Garden event in 2013 and next year it will only include properties in the town centre so we cannot be included. Discussion of an Open Day event to be dealt with under AOB.

c) ST reported that she has put in two grant applications to fund a Community/Social Building but has not yet heard if they have been granted.

d) Most of our hedgerow from Woodland Trust has been planted and there is still some left to be completed on the boundary of plots adjoining the field.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman presented her report for the year.

- An offer was received from Swale Borough Council for MAA to have a 125 year lease on the site. The Committee refused the offer as it would have left us responsible for every part of the site, including the poplar trees which may become a financial burden. Faversham Town Council hosted a meeting of representatives of all town sites wanting to know if we wished to continue the process started two years whereby they would buy the site from Swale. All allotment sites agreed to this. On learning that Swale Borough had approached us without informing them Faversham Town Council were not best pleased.
- Congratulations to Pauline Miles on winning Faversham Best Plot – the first time one of our ploholders has won. Congratulations also to Nick Gurr who won our own People's Choice Best Plot again - by one point.
- Judges from South & South East in Bloom visited as we were part of Faversham town entry. Feedback on our site: "The quality of maintenance and sustainability on Millfield Allotments is good and we liked the inclusion of an apiary".

- We were entered for Its Your Neighbourhood run by the Royal Horticultural Society and a judge spent an hour on site. We received a mark of Thriving with the markings being Establishing, then Developing on to Thriving with the top being Outstanding.
- The social events went ahead with the exception of the Halloween Bonfire. If we had our social building we could have had a get together despite the rain.
- The bees have done well and honey is on sale. Thanks to the Bullen family for all their work.
- Thanks also to all members who do jobs to help maintain the site to a good standard.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the year. A copy is filed with the Minutes. Points of note:

- Income for 2013 is £3828.05, which is an increase on 2012 and includes a grant of £2000 for fencing.
- Fund raising events produced an income of £49.81 and this could be greater if more members supported events.
- Expenditure for 2013 is £3387.82. This is a high figure due to the fencing cost of £2350 – we had to find £350 out of funds to make up the difference.
- There was expenditure of £100 on digging trenches and for £76.75 purchase of water fittings to provide an additional water point on the site.
- The bees have cost us £87.98 this year but we are still selling honey so there will be an overall profit on bees.
- The balance in the bank at 31.10.13 is £2287.63

5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The accounts were approved.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- There was a request that high security fencing be put along the boundary between the plots and the field (railway side of the site) rather than planting hedgerow there. ST will find the cost of this.
- Work parties are very poorly supported by the majority of plottolders. There was discussion around how to encourage more people to take part in work parties which help to maintain the site in a tidy condition and make improvements to it. It was acknowledged that a lot of plottolders do undertake jobs ,e.g. mowing, throughout the year, but the Committee would like to engage other plottolders in helping. It

was agreed that more advance warning would be given via e-mail if possible of prospective work party dates SL suggested we have a Facebook page so that members can be aware of what is going on – SL and GL will organise this.

- It was pointed out that there are plots on the site which are not under cultivation and this is not acceptable in view of the waiting list. It was agreed that the inspection committee will be more proactive in identifying and chasing offenders.
- Dates of events 2014:

Scarecrow Competition – in May. Date to be organised according to the incoming Mayor's schedule.

Barbeque – Saturday 19th July. It was suggested that we combine this with an Open Day and Event for fundraising which will be advertised in the town.

Best Plot competition runs for 2 week prior to the Barbeque date

Halloween Bonfire – Saturday 25th October

Open Meetings – Thursdays 20th March, 19th June, 18th September

AGM – Friday 21st November