



Minutes of Annual General Meeting at Comrades Club: 15 – 10 – 2014

1. Present

Chairman, Estates Manager, Secretary, Treasurer, 6 Committee Members and 50 Members

2. Apologies

Kate Allen, George Bailey, Pete Brewer, Phil Davy, Mike Davy, Colin Forest – Chard, Jennie Hall, Alan Heasman, Frank Hilltout, Richard Howlett, Alex Mc Cardle, Julie Norris, John Rigby

3. Minutes of last Meeting

The Minutes of the AGM held on 16th October 2013 were agreed

4. Matters Arising

Surplus produce collected by Nigel Gilroy has raised £278 from sale of produce at Victory Gospel Church Southampton. Money raised is used for their work amongst the homeless, needy and those with addictions. John Blackmore received a thank you letter with information about the Victory Centre soup run and fund raising for re-opening of a day centre. All contributions are greatly valued.

John Blackmore announced that Erica Coutable had to resign as Secretary in April due to work and family commitments. Erica was thanked for her efforts. Denise Audoire agreed to take on the role.

One way system is now working in use. One member suggested it was against the tenancy agreement for a one way system because the services need 24 hour access. The Chairman answered that there was nothing in the tenancy agreement about this and if the services use the site at night they will leave by the nearest exit.

A member reported that the Knatchbull Close gate is now hard to shut. Peter Thomson will look into this.

5. Secretary's Report

We now have 171 members and 7 vacant plots due to be let after the AGM. The waiting list is now 34 including new members and existing members requiring an additional plot.

A successful quiz night was held in February and organised by Diana Kingston, Richard Howlett and Kate Allen. £133 was raised for the association.

Erica held a stall at Romsey Arts Festival in July where children enjoyed taking part in a seed planting activity.

Romsey Show stand was a huge success winning a large gold medal. Louise Renny and her team set up a fine display of allotment produce with chutneys, jams and cakes. The Show theme was WW1 and Louise had made a special effort to collect memorabilia and appropriate objects for display. A great amount of interest was shown and donations collected from produce sales were later donated to Age Concern Romsey & District.

Dobies group ordering system has changed. Members now order directly from Dobies by phone, post or online. Catalogues and details available from organiser with a code needed to obtain discount of 50% off seed and 10% off other products.

6. Estate Manager's Report

Southern Water Road Damage

- Repairs carried out by Southern Water resulting in a tarmac entrance and larger car park.

Bonfires

- No complaints this year. Members asked to keep it up.

Gates

- Reminder to last person on site to close both gates behind them.

Vandalism

- Please report any incidents by phoning Police on 101 phone number.

Plots

- Only 9 plots let this year. Vacant plots to be let over the next few weeks.

RAHA Summer Show

- Show was well attended with 13 different categories. Judging was by Mick Corden. Best in show was won by Sue Rice and Eddy Randtoul with 4 other categories. Next year show will be earlier in August.

Skip

- A skip will be ordered in November with a list for forbidden items

Water Pump

- Water pump opposite plot 6 will be replaced before Christmas. A member offered to repair it but as repairs had already been attempted and failed it was decided it would be replaced by the association.

7. Treasurer's Report

Robert circulated the RAHA Accounts as at 30.09.2014, showing a balance of £3,805.52 which includes £1,420.00 held as deposits.

The rent has not increased but other expenses of skips, pumps and insurance have increased. An extra £800 had to be spent on roads. Hedge trimming not yet paid for. Member's rents will not increase. Extra funds from activities help to avoid increasing plot rents.

Question asked if last year's accounts may be shown on summary to compare. This was agreed for next year.

A suggestion for road at Knatchbull Close end to be surfaced in Tarmac. This was considered too costly.

The Accounts were accepted.

Robert is giving a talk on the Allotments to the Romsey & District Society next year. He would like to hear from any members who have any amusing stories or historical information on the Allotments. A suggestion was made to contact the local history society for information.

He is organising clothing with the RAHA logo on for members. Information will be sent out by e-mail and ordered through Robert. The logo may need to be larger and a suggestion of a separate badge might be an option.

8. Election of Officers and Committee

All Committee members standing on Committee. No other nominations were put forward.

The following Officers and Committee members were re-elected.

- a. Chairman: John Blackmore
- b. Members Secretary: Denise Audoire
- c. Estates Manager: Peter Thompson
- d. Treasurer: Robert Le Grice
- e. Committee: Bill Chandler, Colin Forest- Chard, Alan Heasman, Mike Mason, Louise Renny, John Rigby, Ian Todhunter, Ken Tongs and Barry Hanson as co-opted.

9. Subscriptions and Rent

Recommended no change to Subscriptions {£5 per year} or Rent {£1 per rod} and Deposit {£30 per plot}.

The recommendation was accepted

10. Honoraria

Recommended £150 each for Estates Manager and Treasurer and £75 for Members Secretary {half year}.

The recommendation was accepted

A member proposed Chairman should receive an honorarium for his work. £100 was agreed.

11. Any Other Business

- a. Questions and answers for QGT will be posted on website and notice board. It was agreed that another one would be held next year possibly with Chris Bird.
- b. The procedure for those not working plots was queried. Peter Thompson explained that each Committee member has an area to oversee. He will discuss the situation with the member before any warning letter of one months notice is sent out. Earlier reporting may help if assistance is required. Some members have left the area without notifying the association therefore it is difficult to contact them. An appeal to members to give association details of any contact change. RAHA have a less strict approach than most organisations and will allow products like black plastic weed suppressant to be used if as part of a plan.
- c. A question about what will be done when pot holes re-form in roads. Peter Thompson will arrange these repairs and order materials required.

