

# Romsey Allotment Holders Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting at The Comrades Club:17.10.2012

## **1. Present**

Chairman, John Blackmore, Vice Chairman Stuart Aiken, Estate Manager, Pete Thompson, Treasurer Babs Ward, Committee Members Denise Audoire, Erica Coutable, Albert Duffield, Rod Hoyle, Mike Mason, Keith Parker, John Rigby, Ian Todhunter and 50 members

## **2. Apologies**

Kate Allen, Alex McArdle, George Bailey, Frank Hilltout, Richard Howlett, John Middleton

## **3. Minutes of last Meeting**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 19 October 2011 were agreed

## **4. Matters Arising**

Matters arising are covered in the Agenda

## **5. Secretary's Report**

Stuart Aiken reported that we now have 180 members and 210 plots. The waiting list varies slightly over time but is generally between 5 and 10, including new members and existing members who would like an additional plot

Whilst TVBCs current strategy does not include the allotments, the long term future is by no certain. There is considerable opposition to development at Whitenap and if this does not go ahead or is reduced in size, that could revive interest in developing the allotments. This means that it remains very important for the Association to have strong links with Romsey and is seen to be an asset to the town. This year there was an open afternoon as part of Romsey Green month and again RAHA had a stall at Romsey Show. Thanks were expressed to those who took part, particularly Denise Audoire and the team at Romsey Show who were awarded a Silver Gilt medal and raised £109 for Naomi House by selling of produce at the end of the Show.

These occasions are effective in maintaining links with Romsey and in attracting new members. However, they do need a lot of work and more members are asked to help by giving some time to take part or by donating produce.

## **6. Estate Manager's Report**

Pete Thompson said he had e-mails from member's concerned about the state of neighbouring plots and reiterated that people who had difficulties keeping their plot in a

reasonable condition should contact him so that some help could be provided. It was stated that it had been keeping an allotment needed 1 hour's work per week for each rod and new members should be aware of this

He had judged an Allotment Competition at Andover and thought a similar competition would work well for RAHA as a social get together

9 boreholes have been completed – members should contact him for help if they wanted a borehole

Money has been spent on road improvements which had been worthwhile. A further 6 tons of ballast will be ordered over the next couple of months for the south side. It has now been established who cuts the Southampton Road hedge and payment has been made

A strimmer and rotavator are now available for use by Members, together with safety equipment. Bill Kowalczyk carried out some seminars on pruning fruit trees and is happy to give advice to members

The hire of the two skips was expensive, but was worthwhile and could be repeated

## **7 Treasurer's Report**

Babs Ward circulated the RAHA accounts, showing a balance of £3,043.75 available to the Association as at 30.9.2012. The RAHA account has been transferred to HSBC and two new accounts opened, a cheque account and an internet savings account.

The main items of expenditure have been the skips, the road, new Notice Boards, and the rotavator. An invoice has been received from Broadlands for this year's Rent at the same level as last year.

Thanks were expressed to Denise Audoire for organising the Dobies Seed catalogues which will run again this year

The accounts were accepted

## **8. Alteration to Rule 4**

The Committee proposed an amended RAHA Rule 4

### **4 Subscriptions**

Members will pay a deposit when first joining the Association, or when taking on an additional plot, and an annual Subscription for Membership of the Association. The amounts will be decided at the Annual General meeting of the Association. Deposit is returnable when the member leaves the Association provided the plot is considered to be in a reasonable condition. The decision of the Committee on return of deposits shall be final

The amendment was agreed

## **9. Election of Officers and Committee**

Alan Heasman has said he wished to stand down from the Committee and the Committee would like to thank him for his work for the Association

All other Officers and Committee members have said they are willing to continue. The Committee is now at the correct number and there are, at present, no vacancies.

The Officers and Committee members were re-elected

## **10. Subscriptions and Rent**

The Committee recommended no change to Subscriptions (£5 per Member), Rent (£1 per rod) and Deposit (£10 per plot).

The recommendation was agreed

## **11. Honoraria**

The Committee recommended £150 for the Estates Manager and £150 for the Treasurer to reflect the amount of work which they do for the Association

The recommendation was agreed

## **12. Any Other Business**

- a. Proposed that the 'Gardeners Question Time' which preceded the AGM should be repeated. This was agreed
- b. Proposed that the Association should continue to take part in the Romsey Show. This was agreed
- c. Proposed that RAHA should have its own produce show. This was agreed with the general view that it should be light hearted rather than competitive
- d. A comment was made about wastage of useable produce. It was agreed this is a real issue, particularly with fruit trees; the matter has been raised with the Committee and means to minimise waste will be discussed at a future meeting
- e. It was confirmed that the Quiz would be run again this year at a date to be confirmed. Thanks were expressed to Diane Kingston and Richard Howlett and others who helped to organise the Quiz