



Minutes of Annual General Meeting at Comrades Club 16th October 2017

1. Present

Chairman: John Blackmore, Secretary: Denise Audoire, Estates Manager: Peter Thompson, Treasurer: Robert Le Grice, 3 Committee Members and 40 Members

2. Apologies

George Bailey, Bill and Ros Chandler, Mike Mason, John Parker, John Reed and Jo White

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on 10th October 2016 were agreed

4. Matters Arising

1. Roads: Pete Thompson will cover in his report
2. Plots upkeep: Pete will cover in his report.

5. Secretary's Report

John Blackmore and Pete Thompson were both thanked for their work on the Committee as they are both standing down. John Rigby and Colin Forrest-Charde who are also standing down from the Committee were thanked for their work.

We have now 167 members. This year 16 letters have been sent to members with overgrown plots as well as many phone calls and e-mails. Contacting some has been difficult because of their changing contact details. Members are asked to let us know if their contact details change. Plots are checked every month in the growing season and action taken on untidy plots.

Pete was thanked for organising the Summer Show this year which was a great success and enjoyed by all. Ian Todhunter: R A H A Webmaster and Alan Heasman the Facebook Group Administrator were both thanked.

Another Large Gold Medal was won at Romsey Show for the 4th year running. £123 was collected from sale of produce and donations plus £110 awarded in prize money. Louise, Mike and their team were thanked for their work setting up and manning the stand. Members were thanked for contributing produce and Ian and Annette for selling off the produce to a dwindling public. Robert was thanked for contributing a display of a Rental Agreement circa 1880's alongside the rules of today.

Members were reminded to keep to the speed limit on the roads and adhere to the one way system.

The Dobies Group order scheme offers members 45% discount on seeds and 10% on other products.

RAHA receives 5% towards funds. This year we received £102.43. Catalogues with a new discount code GD1299D, are available tonight and on rent day.

6. Estates Manager's Report

Pete reported that he took on the role as Estate Manager six years ago when Phil Evans retired as Secretary. His main challenge was making sure vacant plots were offered to people on the waiting list in a timely manner. He has had some demanding challenges. Some may remember when the pumping station lost both its pumps and the Water board had to use 30 ton wagons 24x7 to rid Romsey of its waste, leaving our roads unusable and many weeks were spent rectifying the damage.

He has installed 13 water pumps with Dave Wyatt, the last one installed this year. There are no plans at present to install anymore.

Roads – This year saw a concerted effort to finally repair the road from the crossroads to the Knatchbull road car park. After meeting with an Engineering Company, it was decided their price was above our budget. We decided to source local labour and materials resulting in a first class job and under our budget of £3,000.

The Committee decided to hold the 5th RAHA Summer Show in August. Resulting in a greater number of entries with everyone attending thought it was a great success. Eddie Randtoul was congratulated for winning best in show for the 4th year running.

We have received reports of produce being stolen this summer. Members asked to report it to the Police on 101 and Committee so it can be logged.

An exceptional growing season has resulted in vacant plots becoming rapidly overgrown, upsetting neighbouring members. Working parties were sent out but were fighting a losing battle.

We have 9 vacant plots 5 of these became available just before the AGM and 19 people on the waiting list includes a number with restrictions on plots wanted or when they want them. Pete has let 100 plots during his time. Some have left others have stayed to enjoy the rewards.

Pete congratulated Louise, Mike and Denise for their splendid work at winning a Large Gold Medal at Romsey Show..

There have been no complaints from neighbours concerning bonfires. Members asked to please keep it up.

Pete thanked members for giving him some challenges along the way. He will still be working his plot and be pleased to offer help when needed.

Question asked if rule 9c is being adhered to. John explained that Denise and Pete have mentioned plots inspection. A number of people could not be tracked down. We do have a system. Pete decides if a plot is being worked then the member is given a chance to tidy up the plot or is given notice. Plots are checked every month. There are quite a few problem plots now. The problem is recurring every year. Some promise to start work but do not begin. Members asked to report problem plots to Committee or join the Committee to help.

Question asked if there was a warranty for the road works. No warranty has been given for the road works. John explained that the type of work did not normally come with a warranty. The contractor will be using leftover stone to fill in any potholes which appear. Pot holes will re-appear in time and speeding vehicles will damage the road surface.

7. Treasurer 's Report

Robert circulated the Annual Accounts as at 30/09/17 showing available funds of £1,435.24 and total deposits held of £2,880.00. Rent and Subs income total £3,592. Romsey Show income of £311.70 is for two years. Dobies commission received £102.43 will be added to next year's income.

Expenditure on roads came to £2,862.90 included stone, plant hire and contractors costs. This has been a large expenditure but hopefully provide major improvements to the site together with the fence replacement last year. Other large expenditure is Broadlands rent of £1,275 which we pay after rent day. Broadly speaking Members rent we receive covers Broadlands rent and subscriptions cover Allotments running costs.

The document of circa 1880 shows we are paying the same now as then taking inflation into account.

Question asked what is charged for deposit and should it be increased. Deposit is £30 per plot whatever the size. No increase at present.

Question asked if there is any bad debt. There is no bad debt and no refunds are given on rent or membership subs for those leaving for any reason mid-year.

Rent can be paid Saturday 10.00am – 12.00. If members fees are not paid one month after rent day they lose the plot as it is treated as available to re-let immediately.

The accounts were accepted.

8. Election of Officers and Committee

Some Committee Members have resigned during the year but have continued to organise events and social activities. Alan Heasman: Facebook administrator, Ian Todhunter: Webmaster and Louise Renny: Romsey Show organiser. Standing down from Committee today, John Blackmore after 9 years, Pete Thompson after 8 years, Colin Forrest-Charde and John Rigby. 7 Committee Members are standing again and there are 5 vacancies.

Carole Allen-Morley has agreed to stand as Chairman and Mike Mason has agreed to stand as Estates Manager. Diane Kingston and Steve Treglown offered to join the Committee.

The following Officers were elected individually.

- a. Chairman: Carole Allen-Morley
- b. Secretary: Denise Audoire
- c. Estates Manager: Mike Mason
- d. Treasurer: Robert Le Grice

The following Committee Members were elected by show of hands.

- e. Committee: Bill Chandler, Barry Hanson, Jo White, Diane Kingston and Stephen Treglown.

Other members can join the Committee during the year. John particularly thanked Pete and all who had served on the Committee during the past year for their work and support.

9. Subscriptions and Rent

The Committee recommended no change to Subscription (£12 per year) or Rent (£1 per rod) and Deposits £30 per plot.

The recommendation was agreed

10. Honoraria

The Committee recommended no change for Secretary, Estates Officer and Treasurer £150 each with Chairman £100

The recommendation was agreed

11. Any Other Business

- Manure delivery was put onto a members plot by mistake. Denise will contact supplier to make sure next load is delivered in the car park. A suggestion was made for a sheet of material to be put down before delivery to protect the car park surface. This will be decided at a later date. Delivery will be every month.
- Robert has asked for volunteers to conduct a Butterfly survey at the Allotments between April and September. It will take about an hour about once a month. 5 members were interested and asked to leave their details with Robert.
- Reminder for Rent Day Saturday 21st October 10.10am – 12.00 at the Comrades Club
- John thanked all Members for helping him enjoy his time as Chairman and wished Carole good luck and success in the role. He hoped to enjoy next years AGM from the other side of the table.

