



Minutes of Annual General Meeting at Comrades Club 14th October 2015

1. Present

Chairman: John Blackmore, Secretary: Denise Audoire, Estates Manager: Peter Thompson,
Treasurer: Robert Le Grice, 8 Committee Members and 50 Members

2. Apologies

Kate Allen, George Bailey, James Dawson, Frank Hilltout, Rod Hoyle, Christine Lewry, Julie Norris, Franc and Jill Pilkington, Ian Todhunter

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on 15th October 2014 were agreed

4. Matters Arising

Ian Todhunter stood down from the Committee during the year. He has now taken on the role of Web Master after Ruth Evans had to give the role up. Thanks go to both Ruth and Ian for all their help.

5. Secretary's Report

We currently have 170 members and 2 vacant plots. There are 32 on the waiting list consisting of new members and existing members waiting for an extra plot.

Colin Forrest – Charde organised a quiz evening in April. Attendance was down from previous years. £76 was raised for RAHA funds from entries and a raffle.

A Large Gold Medal was awarded for the Romsey Show stand. Louise Renny and her team displayed produce of fruit, vegetables, flowers, jams and chutneys. Cakes made from produce were available for tasting. £67 was donated to Age Concern Romsey & District from the sale of produce. Thanks to members who donated produce.

In September Robert Le Grice gave a talk to the Romsey & District Society on the History of Romsey Allotments. He presented images of old maps and documents to describe the history and development of the Allotments up to the present day.

Alan Heasman is running the RAHA Facebook Group. Around 19 members have joined. It is open to members and those who help members with their plots.

Thanks to Colin, Louise and team, Robert and Alan for organising these events. Also thanks to Pete Thompson for organising the Summer Show.

Dobies Group Scheme discount has changed. Members will receive 45% discount on seeds and 10% on other products. Orders accepted by phone, post or online direct to Dobies.

Account number and a new code is needed to obtain discount. Catalogues are available tonight and on rent day.

Question to Secretary asking what has been done about overgrown plots. Warning letters had been sent out to these members during the year.

6. Estate managers Report

A limited amount of work has been done on roads due to reduction in finance and more needs to be done. Some members complained about the potholes and concern for damage to their cars. Ballast is to be ordered and a work party set up to repair the roads as it needs compacting.

The fence by the Tadburn Stream footpath {down to railway arch} needs replacing. Work to be carried out in stages over three or four years to spread the cost. Suggestion of hedging was not considered practical.

No new pumps were fitted this year and one new pump to be fitted later in year. Only one skip was ordered.

Summer Show was a success but numbers were down. Will hold one next year but may discontinue in future if not supported. Congratulations to Eddie and Sue who won Best in Show with their vegetable entry. Thanks to Louise, Sharon, Mike and Denise for all their work on the Romsey Show stand.

Bonfires: No complaints from neighbours so far. Members were praised for their cooperation.

7. Treasurers Report

Robert circulated a summary of accounts as at 30/09/15 showing a balance of £3,888.33 which includes returnable deposits of £1,670. Available funds £2,200, this has been falling year on year as we have been overspending each year.

This year spending has been cut back. Compared with 2014 / 2015 when we spent around £500 extra on roads. Broadlands rent has not increased. They allow us to pay after rents have been collected from members. We will continue to hold enough funds to cover one year's rent due to Broadlands. Income has fallen this year. Less commission was received from Dobies Seeds and fewer funds were raised from quiz. Costs have increased for Romsey Show as have individual operating costs such as the skip. Tadburn Stream fence needs replacing and the roads need repairing. Some expenditure has been cut back by not providing pump washers or rat poison. Urgent action is needed to increase funds to cover cost increases. A secure way to guarantee income would be to increase Subscriptions from £5 to £12. Income from shows cannot be relied upon.

The Accounts were accepted

8. Election of Officers and Committee

The following Officers and Committee Members were Proposed by Dave Wyatt, Seconded by Richard Howlett and re-elected on block

- a. Chairman: John Blackmore
- b. Members Secretary: Denise Audoire
- c. Estates Manager: Peter Thompson
- d. Treasurer: Robert Le Grice
- e. Committee: Bill Chandler, Colin Forrest – Charde, Barry Hanson, Alan Heasman, Mike Mason, Louise Renny, John Rigby, Ken Tongs

9. Subscriptions and Rent

Proposal for Subscriptions to rise to £12 per year and Rent to stay the same at £1 per rod
The proposal was agreed by a large majority by a vote of hands

10. Honoraria

The Committee recommended £150 each for Members Secretary, Estates Manager and Treasurer with £100 for Chairman
The recommendation was agreed by a large majority by a vote by hands

11. Any Other Business

- A member not present had asked a question to be raised about strimmer noise at weekends. Although strimming is encouraged to keep plots tidy. Members were asked to be considerate to neighbours when using equipment.
- A vote of thanks to the Committee was put by one of the Members.
- Members wishing to hire equipment need to contact Peter or Barry. Instructions are given at time of hiring. Members need to provide fuel for equipment.
- Suggestion of a need for more social activity among members in order to share knowledge and advice. Diane Kingston offered to organise an informal gathering once a month. The Facebook Group page is also a forum for Members to exchange ideas and views.

- Asked if plots were still checked regularly as some plots were not being worked. Around 8 warning letters have been sent out this year. Committee still check plots every month. Members were asked to bring Committee's attention to untidy plots for them to take action.
- Colin Forrest – Charde has some rat poison left if any one wishes to use it.
- Reminder of Rent day on Saturday 17th October 2015 10.00am – 12.00. Payments may be made via the internet or to Roberts address.

