



Minutes of Annual General Meeting at Comrades Club 10th October 2016

1. Present

Chairman: John Blackmore, Secretary: Denise Audoire, Estates Manager: Peter Thompson, Treasurer: Robert Le Grice, 5 Committee Members and 40 Members

2. Apologies

Simon Davitt, James & Mrs Dawson, Lynda Emery, Craig Findlater, Julie Norris, John Parker, Karen Pethick

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on 14th October 2015 were agreed

4. Matters Arising

1. Roads: Pete Thompsons will include in his report
2. Overgrown Plots: Pete will include in his report.
3. Green Fingers Social Group: An informal get together of members. Diane Kingston was thanked for organising this and it starts again on the 15th November and then every 3rd Tuesday.

5. Finances

Robert circulated the Annual Accounts as at 30/9/16 showing available funds of £3,062.11 excluding deposits. The increase of Subs last year to £12 has enabled us to carry out essential repairs on fencing and roads. We spent £1,100 on materials, Pete and his team provided the labour. We are now in a better position financially. Rent to Broadlands of £1,275 is due with a few more bills due leaving around £1,686 to cover extra expenses. Member's whose plots are left in a poor state do not receive their deposits back. These are then transferred into available funds. Estimate £1,980 to be left in Deposits once departing Member's deposits have been returned to them after rent day. Romsey Show contributed £110 from prize money and £75 from produce sales. Two amounts of Dobies commission was received because of their new system. £5,000 held in bank includes deposits. It has always been a policy to wait until we have received members rent before we pay Broadlands. Money has been saved by changing Insurance. Hedge trimming has not yet been paid.

The accounts were accepted.

6. Secretary Report

We currently have 170 members, 217 plots with around 14 vacant plots some becoming vacant after rent day. There are 18 people on the waiting list consisting of new members and existing members waiting for an extra plot. Any Member wanting another plot will need to contact Pete to put their name on the waiting list.

This year more plots have been neglected. 13 letters have been sent to these Members resulting in some surrendering their plots with others being worked again. The Committee have decided to set up a working party to clear plots which have become overgrown. This will help neighbouring plot holders with weed control and overgrown paths.

Colin organised the quiz in February. £65 was raised for RAHA funds. Attendance was lower than previous years. All who attended had an enjoyable evening. Thanks to Colin and his wife for arranging the quiz.

Pete was thanked for organising the RAHA Show in August. Despite low attendance it was enjoyed by all who participated.

Louise had chosen the theme of Shakespeare this year for the Romsey Show. Another Large Gold Medal was won and £75 was raised for RAHA funds. Louise, Mike and their team were thanked for all their hard work and members were thanked for donating produce.

Ian Todhunter is now running the website as Ruth Evans had to stand down. Ian and Ruth were both thanked for their work.

We are running the Dobies Seeds Group ordering scheme again. Members receive 45% discount on seeds and 10% discount on other products. RAHA receive a small amount of commission for running it. This year we received £81.42. Catalogues are available tonight and on rent day. Discount code is needed to obtain discount.

7. Estate managers Report

Pete reported that he had let 19 plots with 2 or 3 just most recently leaving 10 vacant. Any member wanting another plot needs to contact him to add their name to the waiting list. £30 deposit is required for each additional plot. 30 days notice letters have been sent to members of non working plots. The new Tadburn Stream fence cost under £1,000. He thanked the working party for their help. No complaints received this year from neighbours about bonfires. Work to begin on roads in the winter possibly using a different type of material. A member suggested using a digger. Pete will make a decision on the best way to do the repairs. Produce has been stolen from plots this summer. Members advised to report to Committee and police. We have saved money this year by not providing a skip. The 4th RAHA Show was in August. Attendance was low. Pete congratulated Sue Rice and Eddie for winning best in show. Next year's show will be in August if held. Louise was congratulated for winning the large Gold Medal at Romsey Show.

John reminded Members that Mike Mason is now the person to contact for using RAHA equipment.

- Question asked which pumps were owned by the Association. John replied that only one pump was owned by the Association. The Association no longer supply washers but Pete can get them and is willing to help fit them.
- A Member asked for old carpet for weed cover.

8. Election of Officers

4 Officers and 7 Committee Members are still standing. Ken Tongs is standing down. Ian Todhunter is willing to join the Committee. Jo White also to join as a co-opt member. John will stay on another year but wishes to stand down next year. Ken Tongs was thanked for his effort.

The following Officers and Committee Members were elected and re-elected. Proposed by Richard Howlett and Seconded by Diane Kingston.

- a. Chairman: John Blackmore
- b. Secretary: Denise Audoire
- c. Estates Manager: Pete Thompson
- d. Treasurer: Robert Le Grice
- e. Committee: Bill Chandler, Colin Forrest-Charde, Barry Hanson, Alan Heasman, Mike Mason, Louise Renny, John Rigby, Ian Todhunter, Jo White

9. Subscriptions and Rent

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

The recommendation was agreed

10. Honoraria

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

The recommendation was agreed

11. Any Other Business

- Suggestion for using carpet as a weed suppressant to be banned. There are no rules to ban carpet as upkeep of plots is up to members. The skip has been useful for disposing of rubbish.
- The public have complained via the Town Manager about the overgrown hedge by Southampton Road and brambles by the Tadburn Stream fence. Pete has tidied the path by Tadburn Stream and has contacted the contractor to cut the road hedge.
- Suggestion of putting a toilet on site mainly for ladies convenience. This has been looked at before and was considered too expensive. There would be no objection for a Member to have one in a shed. The Member agreed to look into a possible set up.
- Member asked what steps were being taken about letting plots and if new members should only start with a 5 rod plot. Pete answered that only 5 rod plots are let out to begin with and if more plots become available after rent day any member who would like an extra plot should come forward.
- Asbestos board has been found on one plot. Advised that it should be left alone. Possible removal by a specialist company will be looked into.
- Reminder for rent day on Saturday 15th October 10.00am – 12.00 at the Comrades Club.
- Member thanked the Committee for their work during the past year

