



Minutes of Annual General Meeting at Comrades Club 14th October 2019

1. Present

Chairman: Carole Allen-Morley, Secretary: Denise Audoire, Treasurer: Robert Le Grice, 6 Committee Members and 32 Members

2. Apologies

Kate Allen, John Clode, Colin Forrest-Charde, Alan Heasman, Iain Messenger, John Middleton, Anton Page, Louise Renny, Jo White. Belated apologies: Jenny Fakes

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on 15th October 2018 were agreed

4. Matters Arising

- Rats / Manure – Fewer rats have been reported mostly due to fewer manure deliveries. As the manure goes quickly it was decided to continue with deliveries.
- Estates Managers role split – The role has been split into 3 roles; Plots inspector Co-ordinator, Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator & Waiting List Co-ordinator. Procedures for the Waiting List, Plots inspections and Guidelines on Rule 9 will be added to the Website.

5. Secretary's Report

We now have 173 Members and 208 plots 5 are vacant. There are 30 on the waiting list, some only wanting certain plots. Some vacant plots were hard to let because of their condition or location. A work party clearing some of the vacant plots has helped to let them again. 35 plots have been let since last rent day.

Regrettably I have had to send out 10 one month Notice letters and 5 Termination of Membership letters. Some new Members have found an allotment took more work than they realised and have since given up. We have not had quite so much vandalism this year. Please report any to the Police and we advise Members not to leave any valuables in sheds.

Please let us know of any change of address or details, for us to keep in contact with you.

I would like to thank Mike Mason for keeping the hire equipment in good order and hiring it out and thanks to Ian Todhunter for administering the Website. Also thank you to Melissa for organising the shows. Our Summer show was held at the Rugby Club and enjoyed by all who attended. Another Gold Medal was won at Romsey show. So congratulations go to Melissa and her team. It takes a lot of hard work preparing for the show and thanks to all who contributed produce.

Ros Chandler is standing down from the Committee as a co-opted Member. Thanks go to Ros for your time on the Committee.

We have received £105.09 this year from Dobies Seeds discount scheme. Please keep ordering using the discount code. Discount is 45% on seeds and 10% on other produce. RAHA receive a small amount of discount from orders which helps towards our funds. Please let me know if you would like a catalogue. I hope to have them for rent day.

Carole added thanks to Melissa and Colin Forrest-Charde for administering the Facebook page.

6. Chairman's Report –

- Risk Assessment – Melissa has prepared a Risk Assessment which is needed for RAHA Insurance purposes. Topics include; Public & Plot Holders on roads and paths / Committee doing plot inspections / Butterfly Surveyors & Plot Holders working their plots. It will be reviewed every 2 years. Hazards are rated on a score system with 9 as high risk. Hazard examples are; air pollution / moving vehicles and bacteria from water butts. A vote to accept the Risk Assessment was proposed by Diane Kingston and seconded by Robert Grime. 27 Members agreed to accept and 1 abstained. It will be on the Website.
- Rule 9 c/d/e Clarification – The Guidelines written by Stephen Treglown and altered by Committee were presented. A member asked if replacement of sheds, greenhouse and fruit trees can be the same size as before. Reply – Members concurred if existing structure had NOT caused complaint, then that size could be replaced. Members suggested mature fruit trees, which represent an investment of time and growth, should be protected for future plot holders. Fruit trees will be discussed at the next Committee Meeting. Guidelines will be on the Website.
Note; These are Guidelines, not Rules, so can evolve by Member and Committee suggestion.
- La Ronde – The allotments will take part in Open Gardens in Romsey on **Sunday 12th July 2020**. Members were asked to plant flowers, display artwork, scarecrows or sculptures and keep their plots tidy for the event. The roads will be used to view plots from. Putting up signs showing plants which attract insects was suggested.
- Borough of Culture – Carole has entered the allotments for the 2020 event, especially as Broadlands have shown an interest in us taking part in community projects. Members are asked to create artistic features on their plots, especially those adjacent to the roads. The Borough of Culture Open Day will be **Sunday 12th July 2020**.

7. Acting Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator Report -

- Vandalism – Crime number to report incidents is 101. Member suggested that a security camera could be installed. This has been considered but not yet been decided on. Some plot holders by the Tadburn Stream Footpath have had greenhouse glass broken by paving slabs and air gun pellets. Carole suggested growing a Hawthorn hedge along the fence.
- Work Parties – Two have been set up for fencing and clearing plots. Members wanting to see improvement or help with an area can initiate a Work Party and present to Committee. Work parties could be at weekends in future.
- Rats – They will always be present on the allotments because of the stream nearby and food growing there. Members were asked to minimise their habitat by not keeping rubbish.
- Job Description – Outline of Job Description was presented and the emphasis on co-ordination was noted.
- Pumps – Carole had sent out a survey resulting in 21 responded and 9 did not. Most share pumps but not the cost. Members are encouraged to share maintenance costs and refill barrels after taking water. Helpers need to show Members how to maintain pumps. Pumps will be shared unless the Committee is notified.
- Fruit Trees – Alex and Jenny have done a survey on trees. There are 55 Apple trees and 40 Plum trees. They are encouraging Members to share their unwanted fruit but don't want people raiding fruit or trampling on crops. Windfalls are free to take if they are on paths. Work will continue on the subject.

- Bonfires – Due to dry conditions and neighbour’s complaints bonfires were banned during the summer. The ban generated e-mails of thanks from Members with breathing problems. No complaints have been received from the Council. Members were concerned about getting rid of allotment waste without burning it. Waste can be taken to the local tip and put into a skip when available. Members were asked to act responsibly when burning waste. Advice can be found on RAHA Website. A proposal for banning bonfires from April until September was put to a non binding vote which generated a heated discussion. There was evident Member desire to have bonfires. Bonfires will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - Paths between Plots – Should be grass, be wide enough for a wheelbarrow and have no trip or overhead hazards. This will be a focus of the Committee next year.
8. Treasures Report – Robert circulated the accounts. Income received from rent £3,316, Dobies £97.16, Romsey Show £216.31 and Deposit forfeits £220. Dobies commission and Romsey Show were from 2018. Recent Dobies commission of £105.09 and cash of £252.31 from Romsey Show was too late to include in the accounts but shown as accrument and will be included in 2019/2020 accounts. Payments for rent to Broadlands £1,275, speakers £50 and skip £366. Total income £4,790.19 and total payments £3,360.87. Total funds £7,137.66 with RAHA funds available for spending £3,247.66 and deposits £3,890. A new account with Teachers Building Society has been opened for deposits giving 1% annual interest. Deposits of £3,500, was paid into the account leaving the remainder in HSBC as a float.
9. Election of Officers and Committee –
The following Officers were re-elected
- Chairman ; Carole Allen-Morley
 - Secretary; Denise Audoire
 - Treasurer; Robert Le Grice
- Ros Chandler stood down as a co-opted Member. The rest of Committee were all standing again. Ian Todhunter, Wayne Lawrence and Vincent Coutable offered to join the Committee. The following Committee Members were elected by a majority of votes. Wayne Lawrence and Vincent Coutable joined as joint Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator’s Bill Chandler, Melissa Doherty, Jenny Fakes, Iain Messenger, Alex Mc Ardle, Ian Todhunter, Stephen Treglown. Diane Kingston and Deborah Sargant will be co-opted Members.
10. Subscriptions, Rents & Deposits – Committee recommend no change for 2019/2020 Subscriptions (£12 per year) or Rent (£1 per rod) and Deposits £30 per plot. Broadlands rent for 2020/2021 will increase from £1,275 to £1,600 an increase of £325. Committee recommend Subscriptions increase by £2 to £14. A Member suggested the increase should come from Rent and not Subscriptions. Voting will be deferred until the 2020 AGM. The increase will be charged per rod in Rent rather than increasing Subscriptions. Members agreed to round up to the nearest 5p.
11. Honoraria – Committee recommended removing the honoraria for Estates Manager. Members decided not to remove it but to split it between Wayne Lawrence and Vincent Coutable. Committee recommended honoraria for Secretary and Treasurer £150 each, Chairman £100 and Estates Managers now (Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinators) £75 each. The recommendation was agreed.
12. Any Other Business – A Member asked why large plots were let to new Members. It was explained that where possible new Members were only offered small plots.

