



**Minutes of Annual General Meeting via Zoom Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
**Including Ballot Box votes from Romsey Comrades Club**

1. Present - Chairman: Carole Allen-Morley, Secretary: Denise Audoire, Treasurer: Robert Le Grice, Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinators: Wayne Lawrence & Vincent Coutable.  
Committee Members: Melissa Doherty, Iain Messenger, Ian Todhunter, co-opted Member Diane Kingston & 15 Members on Zoom. Bill Chandler, Jenny Fakes, Stephen Treglown  
Committee Members & 13 Members at the Comrades Club.
2. Apologies - Clare Loadman, Glynis Cooper & Alex McArdle
3. Welcome - Carole welcomed everyone and explained about the second AGM happening at the Comrades Club for voting by paper. Results would be in after 8.00pm.
4. Minutes of the last AGM Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were approved unanimously later in the Meeting.
5. Matters Arising – None
6. Secretary's Report  
This year has been very different with Covid -19 restrictions. I hope most of you have managed to still enjoy your plots during the vital springtime and during lockdown.  
We have let 18 plots since last AGM, less than last year, because of the restrictions and lack of vacant plots. As at the AGM we will have 164 Members and 207 plots with 15 vacant plots to let after the AGM. Plots will be let again after the AGM once the rent increase has been voted on. Larger plots will be split into smaller ones as new Members often leave during their first year due to lack of time. I have sent 3 One Month Notice letters this year but no Termination of Membership letters.  
During Covid-19 lockdown the following were suspended; plot inspections, notice letters and hiring of equipment. Help was offered to all Members which some accepted. Thanks to all who helped. Bonfires were banned. There were less reports of vandalism or theft.

No shows have taken place but hopefully things will be back to normal next year.

I would like to thank Melissa and Colin Forrest-Charde for administering the Facebook page, Mike Mason for letting out the hire equipment and Ian Todhunter for administering the Website. Also thanks to the Members who cut the grass around the site, keeping it looking good.

We are due £115 from Dobies Seeds discount scheme. Discount is 45% off seeds & 10% off other products. RAHA receive a small amount which helps towards funds. I will bring the new catalogues to rent day at the Comrades Club.

## 7. Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator's Report –

Stone – We managed to obtain some cheap stone from contractors at the Rapids. This was used in the extra parking area and for filling in some pot holes. Going forward we have plans to address the state of the roads.

12-Yard Skip – This was organised for all to use. I believe it was a success.

Bird Boxes – The Committee installed bird boxes around the site. These are a welcome addition and hopefully can be added to over time. We would also encourage others to put some up and also bat boxes.

Manure – There was a regular supply of manure which will start again in winter.

Wood Chip – There has been a supply for anyone that needs it. There will be more deliveries in winter.

Extra Parking – Extra Parking was created at the exit end of site, allowing 2 more cars to park.

Painted Gates – Thanks to Stephen Treglown, for painting both gates ready for the new signs to be installed.

Plots 13 & 14, was sadly given up by Phil Evans. The Committee paid their thanks to Phil for everything he's done over the years with a card and gift voucher.

Thanks to Iain Messenger and team for clearing the plots ready their next chapter.

Notice Boards – A new notice board has been put up at the main car park. A second one at the exit gate will be up soon. Costs were kept to a minimum by using donated and recycled materials where possible.

New Signs – There are new signs popping up across the allotments. We opted for galvanised metal posts as they were free and also should stand the test of time.

Next year going forward we plan to add more signs, replace the other notice board and repair / sort the road.

## 8. Treasures Report –

Income – Bank interest received of £17.26 due to transferring £3,500 of deposits to a higher interest account at Teachers Building Society. Highest income is from subs and rent which totalled £3,427, £111 up on last year despite letting of plots suspended for part of the year. £40 was received from deposit forfeits. Shows income was from 2019, prize money and produce sales. No shows took place this year. £105 was received from Dobies commission. Payments – There have been no major project to fund this year, but a wide range of maintenance costs. The most significant being the notice board and new signs. Deposit returns of £180 paid to Members who have left their plots in good condition. We owe £390 for the skip and ballast, awaiting invoice.

Deposits – As the Committee's policy is that deposits should be available to return to Members in the unlikely case of RAHA closure, we account for the total held separately and don't treat them as funds. The majority of deposit funds of £3,500 are held in Teachers Building Society whose interest is paid to the Association annually. A working float of £680 is held in HSBC for receipt of new deposits and return or forfeit of deposits.

Total Income £4,366.70 and total payments £3,234.36. Total funds held £8,270 includes RAHA funds available for spending £4,090.00 and total deposits £4,180.00.

Rent Increase – As reported in 2019 AGM Broadlands have increased our rent for 2020 from £1,275 to £1,600. At the 2019 it was decided to reflect the increase in rent per rod to £1.40 per rod. In view of high risk of Covid -19 transmission we have purchased a card reader to accept card payments. Secure payments can also be made by smart phone. A table is provided giving the amount owed in rent and subs based on total rods rented. No cash payments unless necessary and correct amount must be given.

Rent day is at the Comrades Club Sat 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020 from 10.00 am – 12.00 noon.

## 9. Any Other Business –

- Rats – The rat problem has been worse this year. Last year we did not want poison used. Members have recently been using poison. Some Members were concerned about other wildlife and animals. By a show of hands on Zoom, a majority were in favour of using poison. It will be on the Agenda for the next Committee meeting.
- Manure – Rats have been brought onto the site in the manure. By a show of hands on Zoom, a significant majority wished to cancel the manure delivery. Other options were suggested such as growing green manure and other products recommended can be added to the website.
- Paths – Paths should be kept clear for access to plots and in case of an emergency. One blocked path needs to be worked on. Plot holders are responsible for maintaining the paths but they are owned by the Association. It will be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.

- Roads – A Member asked if the roads would be repaired soon. Wayne explained that filling potholes with scalping would not last. He will get a quote for asphalt and look at some sort of help with funding. It will be discussed in the Committee again when quotes are in.
- Plot 14 options – Let for cultivation / Car parking / Community plot.  
A Member asked who would look after a Community plot. Carole replied that a Community plot has not yet been discussed, but the Committee would not run it.
- A Member suggested that existing Members should not be offered another plot unless there were no names on the Waiting List. Carole explained that because of Covid-19 more people have applied for a plot. RAHA Guidelines allow a maximum of 20 rods per household. This suggestion will be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.

10. Voting results - 38 Members voted: 16 on paper and 22 on Zoom

B. Rent - Committee recommended the rent increase to £1.40 per rod. The recommendation was agreed by unanimously.

C. Subscriptions – Committee recommended no change to Subscriptions at £12. The recommendation was agreed by the majority of votes.

D. Deposits – Committee recommended no change to deposits at £30. The recommendation was agreed by the majority of votes.

E. Honoraria - Committee recommended no change to honoraria at £100 Chair; £150 each for the Treasurer and Secretary and £150 shared equally between the Ground Maintenance Team. The recommendation was agreed by the majority of votes.

F. Election of Officers and Committee – The following Officers and Committee were elected

- Chair; Carole Allen Morley
- Treasurer; Robert Le Grice
- Secretary; Denise Audoire
- Ground Maintenance Team; Wayne Laurence & Vincent Coutable
- Committee; Bill Chandler, Melissa Doherty, Jenny Fakes, Craig Findlater, Diane Kingston, Iain Messenger, Stephen Treglown

No longer on the Committee - Alex McArdle who stood down and Ian Todhunter who received the least number of votes.

Opinion on the future of plot 14 – Of the three potential uses for Plot 14 – Car parking and Let for cultivation came close with a slight majority favouring car parking. Not many wanted a Community plot. It will be on the Committee Agenda for next year.











