



## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Romsey Comrades Club**

1. Present - Chairman: Carole Allen-Morley, Secretary: Denise Audoire, Treasurer: Iain Messenger, Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator: Wayne Lawrence. Committee Members: Bill Chandler, Jenny Fakes, Craig Findlater, Stephen Treglown & 27 Members
2. Apologies – Kate Allen, John Blackmore, Glynis Cooper, Judith Christer, Gemma Collins, Melissa Doherty, Bob & Lucy Gosse, Matt Harrison, Wendy Herbert, Diane Kingston, Robert Le Grice, John Middleton, William Redpath & Louise Renny
3. Carole opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. A minutes silence was held in remembrance of loved ones lost during the last two difficult years.
4. Minutes of the last AGM 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 held on Zoom – Proposed by Robert Grime and seconded by Jenny Fakes. The Minutes were approved.
5. Matters Arising – None
6. Chair's Chat - Three years ago Carole asked Members what was important to them about their allotments. Replies were - 1. Growing of food. 2. Nature, including flowers and butterflies. 3. Community. With reference to the "Community" aim - Members were asked for their first and surnames by plot number to be distributed to the Committee. This was unanimously agreed. A Member suggested first names and plot numbers were made public to all. The majority agreed. Since there were a few objections, all Members will be asked for their preference by e-mail.

Members were encouraged to view the RAHA Website for information including procedures and to view the Facebook page.

La Ronde was cancelled last year but this year was attended by around 100 people. Produce from Members raised £100.

We now have an official area for **woodchip and manure**. It is only for Committee authorised deliveries. Also a **metal recycling area** located in a hidden south east corner. Members can leave scrap metal but no wire. **RAHA shed** has been delayed. Iain Messenger is organising the delivery. Stephen and Wayne prepared the site. The shed will be used for pump repairs as well as storage.

7. Rule Change – Rule 9c) - To change from **(one month's notice)** to **(28 days notice)**. The warning time was queried. Carole explained that the first warning is a chat before any formal letter. One month notice letter is given if the plot is picked up again in inspections. If there is no improvement after the letter notice period the Member will be evicted and given one week to clear their plot. The rule change was agreed by majority of votes.
- Rule Change - Rule 9f) – **Bonfires are only permitted during the first seven days of the month of October through to April inclusive.**

Committee recommend the rule change to avoid being served with a Statutory Nuisance order from TVBC. Member suggested use of incinerator was more efficient and created less smoke. Carole will consider the suggestion be put in the guidelines. Carole will inform TVBC of our rule change.

The rule change was approved by the majority of votes.

8. Secretary's Report – We now have 180 Members and 212 plots. 38 plots were let, some let twice. At rent day there will be 11 vacant plots and 42 on the waiting list.

This year 10 One Month Notices were sent and 5 Termination of Membership and plot. Some new Members have found it difficult to cope with plot upkeep. We can always offer help and advice to anyone who is struggling. Members are reminded to give us their details if they have changed.

Plot inspections were carried out this year by Stephen Treglown and Iain Messenger. This has helped inspections be more consistent.

There has been a certain amount of theft and vandalism but no more than usual. Please report any incidents to police and don't leave valuables in sheds or on site.

Thanks to Wayne for organising the road repairs at a reasonable cost. Thank you to Robert Le Grice for his work as Treasurer. Robert left earlier this year and thanks to Iain Messenger for taking on the role. Thank you to Vincent Coutable for his work on the Committee and as joint Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator.

Thanks to Mike Mason for letting out the hire equipment and to Melissa for administering the Facebook page. Also thanks to Stephen and Iain for letting the plots with me.

There were no shows this year because of Covid.

Dobies seed catalogues are here with discount of 45% off seeds and 10% of other goods.

Denise was applauded for her work as Secretary.

9. Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinators Report – Wayne reported that the road repair went well. It can be repeated every year. A new storage bay for manure and wood chip with a fence along the front has been made with Stephen’s help. Also the container site was laid out. The signs have been put up. The boundary fence needs repairing. If any Member has any spare saplings they can be planted there as well. Supplies of pallets, netting and sheets can be arranged. If anyone wants them please ask Wayne or leave a note in his Pink Box on Plot 6.

A Member queried the low cost of the road repairs. Wayne explained that the two work men did not want paying for their work.

A Member asked if all of the signs were up. Wayne replied that there were 2 left to go up. Members applauded Wayne for his work.

10. Treasurer’s Report – Iain took over as Treasurer from Robert this year. He thanked Robert for the previous year’s accounts and help with the handover. Iain has prepared the accounts as at 30/09/21.

Income - Rent is up by £730 as more plots were let. Total rent and subscriptions £4,157. Southern Water contributed £200 towards road repairs. Carole is chasing Scottish Gas and Electric for a contribution. £115 was received from Dobies commission. Members were thanked for ordering from them. Majority of deposits are held in the Building Society. Expenditure – Broadlands rent £1,600, skip payment of £1,056 was for two skips, one being last years. Insurance was £157 for full cover.

Total funds held £9,040 including deposits of £4,440 leaving £4,600 RAHA funds available for spending.

Iain is on plot 128 and asked if Members had any questions.

Member asked how many forfeits there were. Answer, there were 5.

Member asked why we have a skip. Iain replied, most things were recycled and it helped new Members. Volunteers will be needed for next skip day.

Iain reminded Members that rent day is Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> at the Comrades Club 10.00- 12.00.

11. Election of Officers and Committee – The following Officers and Committee were re-elected and elected by the majority of votes.

Chair – Carole Allen-Morley

Secretary – Denise Audoire

Treasurer – Iain Messenger

Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator – Wayne Lawrence

Committee – Bill Chandler, Melissa Doherty, Jenny Fakes, Craig Findlater, Diane Kingston, Stephen Treglown. Rob Hiley and James Vaughan joined the Committee.

12. Subscriptions, Rents & Deposits – Committee recommend no change to subscriptions at £12, rent at £1.40 per rod & deposits at £30.  
The recommendation was agreed by majority of votes.
13. Honorarium – Committee recommend no change at £100 Chair, £150 Secretary, £150 Treasurer and £150 Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator. Member suggested the Secretary should receive more. It was agreed to accept the recommendation. Iain said he would not take any honorarium. Committee will discuss any alteration at a later date.
14. A.O.B. –
- Member commended Committee on doing a good job this year.
  - Member commended the plot letting team for successful plot letting.
  - Member asked if the new cycle way will alter access to the allotment entrance. Committee will discuss any issues at the next Committee Meeting.







