

Please find below the minutes from the AGM held at the Rising Sun on 13/05/2015

## **1. Annual review - A CELEBRATION!**

Kevin opened the meeting by summarising our achievements to date. There was a slide show providing a pictorial history. A toast was raised to our success.

## **2. Election of Officers**

Kevin Watson was re-elected as Chair  
Les Sells was re-elected as Secretary  
Mary Davies was re-elected as Treasurer

Kevin gave notice of his intention to stand down as chairman of the society at the next AGM.

## **3. Accounts**

Mary presented the Society accounts for 2014/15. Currently we have a surplus of £380.05 in the account. However, there are a number of capital items that we will need to pay for (see below) and we can't rely on the same level of grant money received from the fete as in previous years.

Potential items of capital expenditure may include:-

- Wood preserver for the fence
- Manure
- Weed killer
- New gate handle
- Water trough lids
- Benches
- Pump maintenance kit
- Communal lawn mowers

Not all of the above items have to be purchased, and the cost of them remain to be determined. However, if we do pay for all of them, based on current subs and a reduced fete grant, we could have very little left at the end of the year in the bank account. We do not, however, have to fund a shed as the PC have agreed in principle that this can be paid out of the S106 money. However, there are other calls on the S106 money and it is possible funding may not be available for the shed. The PC continue to hold their position that there should only be a single shed on the site.

It was proposed that membership fees be £20.00 per plot, in addition to the tenancy fees. This was agreed by all present. **Could all plot holders please therefore arrange to give Mary £20.00 for this year's subs ASAP.**

## **4. Risk assessment (RA) and proposed consequential amendments to membership rules**

In order to be covered by the PC's public liability insurance we are required to carry out a risk assessment. Kevin has done this and made some small amendments to the society's rules which have previously been circulated to all members. But as a reminder:-

- Put all tools away when not using them
- Remove all glass and sharp materials from the site when not in attendance
- Power tools are used at members own risk
- Please label and store all chemicals properly
- Visitors are very welcome, but must be escorted and must stay on the paths
- Each member is responsible for security while on site and for any items of personal property left on the site.
- Each member is responsible for their own health and safety and for everyone else while on site

## **5. Site maintenance**

Kevin reminded members that the site should be kept neat and tidy. Each member is responsible for the borders of their plots, which includes the grass around the plot. There will shortly be three communal lawn mowers available for members use. These will be store by Kevin at his house, Should anyone want to use one, please contact Kevin or Mary, and they will arrange to make it available. Once the shed is in place, the mowers will be stored in it.

All members are reminded they have agreed to be bound by the rules of the Society. Larger societies have wardens that are responsible for enforcing rules and pointing out infringements. It was not felt this was necessary for Malford Allotmenters, as we are a small society with a small site. However, the Committee will be responsible for monitoring H&S on the site in the short term (until the end of the summer) and if it is felt necessary, will consider appointing a H&S representative in the Autumn.

## **6. Social activity ideas**

There will be a skittles night on 20th June 2015. The Society has been invited to enter a team. Members to contact Lynne if interested.

A suggestion was also made that we might want to consider attending shows (such as Malvern and Chelsea) as a 'group outing'. This was thought to be a good idea. It was further suggested we consider asking Sutton Benger allotment members if they would be interested as well, in which case a mini bus could be considered. Les will contact SB with a view to inviting them over to visit our site and discuss future combined events.

## **7. AOB**

a. Lynn asked if the spare land around the plots could be used to house the compost bins, rather than keeping them on the plots. In principle this was agreed but the siting of the shed and water tank needs to be finalised first. Members were asked, therefore, to keep their compost bins on their plots in the short term until the final placing of sheds and water tanks has been arranged and completed.

b. Neil reminded all members to open at least one valve when pumping water and leave a valve in the open position when finished.

c. Les asked if the land near his, Neil's and Giles' plots could be offered as a 15th plot. It's currently not in use or earmarked for any expansion of existing plots. The land is currently going to weed and is requiring constant cutting to keep it under control. It was agreed we would advertise it as a half plot over the summer for new members. If there were no takers by the end of this growing season, then the Society could review the use of the land at that point and consider allowing the land to be used by those wanting more space.

d. Albert reminded everyone that there will be a promises auction in aid of the village hall on 12th September. Allotmenters are invited to take part.

8. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks from the Society members to the Chairman for all his continuing hard work.