

Minutes of Malford Allotmenteeers AGM

Thursday, 28th April 2016, Rising Sun

Present: Kevin Watson, Mary Davies, Justin King, Steve Hudson, Neil Chambers, Susie Barrington, Mike & Liz Wilkins, Lynne & Rob Patchett, Derek Townsend, Pam & Roger Carter, Terry Johnson, Albert Pace, Adrian Barrance, Les & Gill Sells

Opening

Kevin opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He explained he had prepared an agenda and accompanying slides.

Election of Officers

Kevin confirmed his intention to resign as Chair of the Society. He asked for a volunteer to replace him. No one came forward. Kevin expressed his disappointment, and agreed to continue as interim Chair on the grounds that all members consider standing and notify him should they wish to take on the position.

We therefore have a vacancy for Chair. If anyone would like to take on the position, please contact Kevin.

Mary was confirmed as treasurer for another 12 months, and Les was confirmed as secretary for another 12 months.

Finances

Mary presented the accounts (see slides) drawn up from the previous 12 months income and expenditure. The accounts were agreed.

2016 Budget

The main items of expenditure over the next 12 months had been expected to be two new benches and a shed. It was agreed the Society did not want any further benches, so this expense was put on hold for 12 months.

A question arose as to the Society receiving a donation from the fete profits. Several members expressed an opinion that going forward the Society should try and be self-sufficient when it comes to funding. Therefore it was proposed that any monies received by the Society from the fete funds be donated to another village fund. This was agreed by a vote.

Membership Fees

2015 costs were rent £25 and membership fees of £20.00 per plot. Mary explained that if fees did not rise then the Society would not accumulate any reserve over expenditure. It was therefore proposed to increase membership fees to £25 per plot. This was agreed by vote.

Health, Safety and Well-being

A new sign has been put up at the entrance to the allotments, but some members felt that the wording was not as agreed at the last AGM. There was concern expressed over the potential of casual visitors. However, it was pointed out the site is insured by the PC and covered by PLI. Visitors are also required to stay on paths. Members also have an obligation to keep all communal areas clear. Visitor numbers will be monitored, and if it is thought that this will become a problem then the situation will be reviewed.

Water trough coverings was raised as an item outstanding from the last AGM. After some debate it was agreed that this need no longer be carried out. Instead the troughs will have warning signs attached to them stating the water is non-potable.

Responsibilities

Kevin reminded all members of their responsibilities on the site. Plots should be kept reasonably neat and tidy. Grass should be trimmed around each plot and water troughs topped up after use.

Shed

Kevin thanked Mike Wilkins for putting together potential costing for the shed. The PC has been approached for funding, but it may not cover the entire cost. The Society may be responsible for preparing the base and assembling the shed. Volunteers will be sought. Once erected it is proposed solar panels be fitted to the roof to provide light inside. Also two water butts will be added to the end to catch water runoff.

AoB

Lynne Patchett thanked all members for their donations to the auction boxes. These raised £50.00 for good causes.

Mary explained the fete would be smaller this year, but the Allotmenters, led by Clara Hudson, had undertaken to organise a produce competition open to all villagers. Classes are now available on the village web site, and entries will be accepted on the day. The Society has also volunteered to provide a fresh food voucher which can be won through a raffle at the fete. Donations will be welcome from all plots.

Les and Katie have volunteered to organise a summer social event.

A potential open day for the Allotmenters was discussed. It was agreed we will only do this if the Meadow has an open day.

All Allotmenters are asked to help keep weeds under control along the back fence. It was discussed that if they are not kept under control then they will potentially encroach onto the main site. Some strimming has already been carried out and the volunteers who carried this out were thanked. Les volunteers to arrange to spray the area with weed killer. He confirmed he would be mindful of plots and plants that have now been planted against the fence.

Mike reminded all to be aware of flowering weeds on their plots and to deal with them efficiently and appropriately before them become a nuisance.

All members were reminded they are responsible for the grass and hedge at the front of their plots. Grass should be cut whenever possible.

Steve will look into an alternative source of manure next autumn.

There being no other business the meeting was brought to a close by Kevin who thanked everyone for their contributions and attending.