

MINUTES OF The Extraordinary AGM of MALFORD ALLOTMETEERS - 12 June 2017

Meeting commenced at 19:40 Venue: The Rising Sun Public House

Chairman: Mike Wilkins

Secretary: Les Sells

Treasurer: Mary Davies

The meeting was attended by 11 of the 16 members entitled to vote.

The Chair opened the Extraordinary AGM by welcoming everyone and thanking members for attending.

The single business of the Extraordinary AGM was to adopt Christian Malford Allotmenters Association Rules for Members V3, copies of which had been distributed to all current members prior to this meeting.

The Chair went on to explain that the Landlord (CM Parish Council), had initially drafted new rules and tenancy agreements in compliance with their lawful requirements. In his role as the interface between the Association and the Landlord, The Chair had then been invited to review and reach agreed amendments of the initial draft documents, (the Rules & Tenancy Agreement). The result of these discussions produced a very much shorter Tenancy Agreement, but a slightly expanded Rules document, which had then been adopted by the Parish Council in their May 2017 meeting.

The new Rules document broadly followed the Association's previous rules, with a few minor adjustments and addressed issues common to other allotment associations. In addition the amendments to the draft documents gave the Association more decision making powers. The Chair also explained that when redrafting the documents, he had kept in mind the desire to keep administration both for the Association and the Landlord to a minimum and to provide a framework for the members to obtain maximum enjoyment from their plots.

Finally the Chair expressed his opinion that the new rules were well rounded and he was aware that they are being considered as a basis for adoption by other associations.

There being no questions regarding the new rules, the resolution to adopt them was proposed by The Chair and seconded by the rest of the committee.

The resolution to adopt Rules for Members (V3) was then carried by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was closed at 19:54 hours.

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1. Officers Report

a. Chairman

The Chair opened by commenting on this meeting being the sixth annual meeting of the Association.

He started by saying his first task was to oversee the erecting of our communal shed. An exercise where it was pleasing for him to observe the way in everybody chipped in when asked, this being a good example of the spirit within the Association. This was especially noticeable in the work required to dig out the hole to receive the sheds concrete base and the application of the preservative to the structure.

The physical erecting of the shed was of course a task that required fewer allotmenters so he was indebted to Mary, Rob, Roger and Kevin for their assistance in this task. Thanks again were expressed to Kevin, our solar guru, for the internal lighting system and to Roger for introducing him to the benefits of polyurethane glue.

The Chair concluded the shed report by expressing the hope of agreement that in his view the shed now provides a very useful addition to aid our endeavours.

Clara was thanked for organising the Produce Competition at the Fete, which proved an undoubted success, one that was hoped we will achieve again this year. Perhaps the only puzzling aspect of the competition was how Steve managed to win the cup – it's hoped he will face stiffer competition this year.

On the Allotments plot front we lost Albert and Katie but welcomed new allotmenters in the shape of Danny and Stephanie, Kathryn and Ben and they have already shown they are going to be good additions to our ranks.

Growing wise, apart from the weather, quite a few of us had the dreaded potato and tomato blight which generally seemed to be just cosmetic on the potatoes but killed our tomatoes.

Apart from Steve's plot we seemed free from the ravages of our larger wild four footed friends.

At the backend of the year, there was some difficulty in the timing of the manure delivery, its ultimate delivery in bags which were deposited at the end of the plots, worked well.

The committee had a frustrating year but he personally expressed thanks to Mary for her dedication to the well being of our Association whilst acknowledging that Les has had a difficult year work wise and the demands of his ailing mother-in-law to handle. Both Les and Mary have decided not to offer themselves for re-election but he expressed doubts that we wouldn't be where we are today without their input, so on behalf of the membership he thanked them both.

It was a struggle throughout the year to keep the pump delivering water. This was achieved, with reasonable success but without ever achieving the perfect solution – this was work in progress and ideas/solutions would be most welcomed from the membership.

b. Secretary

The Secretary confirmed that he had nothing to report. However, he confirmed his wish to resign his post, and thanked the Chairman and members for their support over the past five years.

c. Treasurer

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year to 31st March 2017, which showed a balance of £397.45, this being a loss of £286.61 on the year.

The Treasurer explained that under the new rules it was necessary for the rent and a signed Tenancy Agreement to be deposited with a committee member before 31 March each year. Members were reminded that failure to comply with this requirement may cause the plot holder to lose their rights to the plot. The rule in this aspect pertaining to the current year had been relaxed by the Landlord to allow the new rules process to be completed.

The Treasurer then explained that in previous years, in addition to the rent paid by plot holders, each plot had also contributed £25 per year towards a general Association maintenance/resource fund. The members would need to decide if they wanted to continue to make that payment. The Treasurer suggested that as there will probably be no ongoing S106 monies in the future, if this was the case any maintenance the Association enters into would therefore have to be funded from member's resources.

The Treasurer then turned to a donation usually received from the Village Fete proceeds. The Fete will be very small this year and it was to be expected any potential donation to Association funds will reflect this. Previously the Association has donated the funds received to the maintenance of the Village Hall. It was questioned from the floor if such a similar donation to the Village Hall should be made this year.

After a short debate it was agreed the Association would retain the donation this year if one is received.

2. Election of Officers

a. Chairman

There were no nominations for Chair. Mike Wilkins therefore agreed to stand again for Chair. He was nominated by Mary and seconded by Les. Mike Wilkins was elected unanimously.

b. Secretary

Steve Hudson had been nominated by Mike Harlow and seconded by the Chair. Steve Hudson was elected unanimously.

c. Treasurer

Mike Harlow was nominated by Steve Hudson and seconded by the Chair. Mike Harlow was elected unanimously.

3. Expenditure Going Forward

a. Petrol Mower

The Association had been given permission by the Landlord to store a petrol mower and fuel in the communal shed. The Association had been offered a second hand mower which needed a small amount of repair, but was reported as otherwise being serviceable. The question put to members was do they want to use a petrol mower and if so should it be the second hand machine or buy a new one. After a short debate it was decided to use the second hand machine until such time as it became unserviceable when this matter would be reconsidered. Concern was raised regarding the storage of petrol in the shed, but it was agreed that with sensible precautions this should not present a problem.

b. Cold Frame

The Chair had been made aware of a number of members who had surplus plants to offer to other members. He proposed the idea of placing a cold frame by the shed where such plants could be stored for members to then pick them from. Roger had informed The Chair that it was possible that he could have a second-hand cold frame to donate to the Association at the end of this growing season. The alternative was to spend funds to buy a new cold frame. There was a small debate as to whether a cold frame was needed, as usually members communicated their surpluses to each other by email. It was agreed to give the second hand cold frame proposal a try for one year as long as its construction didn't include glass which is prohibited by our rules.

c. Manure

The Chair asked if the Association wanted to obtain manure for their plots as in previous years. Several members stated they didn't want manure going forward as they wanted to try different types of fertiliser. It was agreed nearer the time that the Committee undertake a poll of members to ascertain who would require manure this season and would then organise the delivery of manure accordingly. It was also agreed that the Association would initially fund the purchase of any manure, with the members refunding the Association in due course.

4. Fixed Date for AGM

The Chair asked if with the 31 March deadline for rent and tenancy agreements clearly defined, it would help if there was a fixed date for the AGM. It was agreed by all members that this would be a good idea, and as such the first Monday in March was settled upon. Therefore the next AGM will be held on Monday 5 March 2018.

5. Association Subscriptions 2017/2018

After a discussion from the floor around the likely expenditure of the Association this year, The Chair proposed that members continue to pay the £25 subscription for the current year and if the money isn't substantially used by the end of the year, it be reviewed at the next AGM.

The proposal to retain the £25 members full plot subscription was proposed by The Chair, seconded by the Treasurer, and agreed by a majority vote.

6. Social

Kevin agreed in principle to look into organising some form of Association social event this year. The Chairman thanked Kevin for agreeing to do this.

7. Matter arising.

a. The Chair thanked Steve for maintaining the Association's web site.

b. It was agreed a 'White Board' would be placed inside the shed for member use. Kathryn agreed to purchase a suitable unit and the Committee would arrange to hang it inside the shed.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked all of the members for attending the meeting and brought proceeding to a close.

The meeting ended at 20:45



29/6/2017

f.p. Les Sells
Secretary (Retired) - Malford Allotmenters.