



## **Wincheap & District Allotments Association**

### **2016 Annual General Meeting**

Held at the Scout Hall, Heaton Road, Canterbury on 9 November 2016 at 7:30 pm

#### **Present:**

#### **Committee:**

**Officers:** John Osborne (Chair); Derek Marsh (Site Manager); Don McFadyen (Treasurer); Sally-Ann Bryan (Competitions Officer); Doreen Kalideen (Membership Secretary); Jean Sudell (Show Secretary, standing down); Peregrine Swann (Minutes Secretary).

**Members:** Norman Eyers; Dave Applin; Peter Sudell; Deidre Hawkes; Tom Reid; Nick Barnes

#### **Association Members**

Dave Seager; Dean Bubier; Gillian Northcott Liles; Dave Goddard; David Hanagan; Alan Robinson; Chris Ives; Jane Elder; Andrew Deacon;

#### **Apologies**

Heather Colthart; Debs Packman; Butch Packman; Eric Marsh; Carl Gerrard; Heidi Gerrard; Dane Burton; Alan Makey; Cheryl Ives; Natasha Ives; Elizabeth Deacon, Lynn McFadyen.

#### **Chair for the meeting**

John Osborne reported that the President of the Association, Alan Makey, was unwell and so was not able to attend the meeting as the chair as he would normally do. It was agreed that John Osborne should act as the chair. It was also agreed that a Vice President was required and that Norman Eyers was proposed and duly appointed.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the 2015 AGM had been circulated in advance of the meeting and there were no comments or objections. The minutes were duly approved and signed.

#### **Chairman's Report (John Osborne)**

Generally it had been a good year with lots of improvements to the site since the last AGM; a new toilet was due to be purchased and installed in the near future; the shed has been cleared and painted; a successful daffodil show, Queen's celebration event, quiz show, BBQ and Halloween event had all taken place. The Association Website is up and running. The chairman thanked all the committee members for their hard work as well as all association members for their support of the Association, which he considers is now in a very strong position.

#### **Treasurer's Report (Don McFadyen)**

Don circulated a report of the accounts for year ended 30 September 2016 to all members attending the meeting, showing an income of £10,784.35 against expenditures of £4,312.96 leaving a surplus of £6,471.39. Don pointed out that it was important to maintain an Emergency Fund of at least £2,000 but with the current surplus this was well covered. Don invited comments or queries about the accounts but none was forthcoming. Don will draw up a budget for 2017 for discussion at the next committee meeting.

Don mentioned that there was currently no auditor appointed. Although the accounts are relatively straightforward it was felt that having them audited was important and so any member who knows of a suitable candidate was asked to bring him/her to the attention of the committee.

#### **Site Manager's Report (Derek Marsh)**

There has been a big improvement in the tidying up of plots by members. The regular 'Community Sundays' have been well attended and have made a big impact with regards to the general impression of the site. The improvements to the shed are also much appreciated.

5 plots have been identified as vacant. Derek plans to turn off the water at Christmas and turn it back on by 1 March 2017. Water usage has increased, but this is expected given the increased number of plot holders. New taps and valves have been installed.

Derek asked plot holders to make an extra effort to tidy up their plots at the end of the growing season.

#### **Competitions Secretary (Sally-Ann Bryan)**

The events this past year have gone very well. A special mention was made of the spring daffodil show and summer flower and vegetable shows organized by Jean Sudell, who is moving away from Canterbury. The members voiced their appreciation of Jean's work over many years in organizing the plant shows. Sally-Ann presented Jean with a floral gift in recognition of all her past support to the Association. In his absence it was mentioned that special thanks were due to Roger Austin for his judging of the allotment plots in August. The Halloween show also went particularly well and it is planned to repeat this event next year. The Queen's birthday event, the BBQ and the Quiz Show also were all very successful. Special thanks to Derek Marsh, Doreen Kalideen, Don McFadyen, Sally-Ann Bryan and Chris and Sheryl Ives for organizing these events. Also a big thank you was extended to the many people who helped to set up and tidy away the events.

#### **Election of Committee Members**

The following members were proposed and seconded for the positions shown below:

##### **Officers**

Chairman	John Osborne
Vice Chairman	Vacant
Site Manager	Derek Marsh
Treasurer	Don McFadyen
Competitions Secretary	Sally-Ann Bryan
Membership Secretary	Doreen Kalideen
Minutes Secretary	Peregrine Swann
Correspondence Secretary	Dean Bubier

All nominations were accepted. To note that Peter Sudell will remain as a Trustee until a change in Trustees is required.

##### **Members**

Norman Evers; Dave Applin; Peter Sudell; Deidre Hawkes; Tom Reid; Nick Barnes.

##### **Other business**

Derek Marsh mentioned that he was hoping to be able to extend and improve the area around the shed to offer more parking space and greater area and improved lighting for events.

Doreen Kalideen suggested that we might want to get the Association listed in the National Gardens Scheme Yellow Book. It was agreed we should aim to get the Association listed.

Canterbury in Bloom is keen to have allotments included in their scheme. Tom Reid and Gillian Northcott Liles will look into how the Association might be involved and report back to the committee.

Doreen Kalideen raised the possibility of constructing some raised beds that could be used by people with disabilities and older folk who have mobility problems. Generally agreed that this was a good idea to be looked into and discussed at future committee meetings. There was also a suggestion that smaller plots, such as one third the size of a full plot, could be introduced to help people who are interested in having a plot but only able to manage a limited size of plot. A suggestion was also made that vacant plots could be marked to enable them to be easily identified so plot-holders who were willing to assist could keep them tidy until they were let out, rather than rely solely on the work of the Community Sunday helpers.

It was suggested that it would be helpful for all members to mention the allotment to their friends as a cheap and effective way to advertise the benefits of being a member or supporter of the Wincheap & District Allotment Association.

John Osborne summed up by stating that the last year had seen excellent progress in many ways and he thanked all members of the Association for their past support which he hoped would continue throughout 2017.

All participants were most grateful to Sally-Ann and Jean for ensuring the provision of tea and coffee and biscuits.