

Bridport and District Allotments Society Meeting

Annual General Meeting held at Mountfield on 13th September 2012

Members Present:

Colin Sparkes (Chair), Mandy Rathbone, Alexandra Gurini, Brenda Dando, Mary Keens, Lynne Atkinson, Brian Atkinson, Roger Pollock, Eve Hobson, Richard Edwards (minutes), Ted Davis, Fran Salix-Alba, Ron Grimwood, Frank Holland, Anne Martin.

Apologies from: Bob Driscoll, Charles Wild, David Rapson.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

These were agreed.

2. Chairman's Report:

Colin reported on the dramatic weather this summer and its effects: 95mm of rain in two days on an already waterlogged landscape causing flooding in Bridport and Burton Bradstock including many of the allotments. The rainfall for this area since January is 10 inches above average.

The committee has met throughout the year and involved stuffing and distributing around 120 envelopes 4 times a year. This workload would be reduced if more members were on email so please send Mandy

([REDACTED]) or Colin ([REDACTED]) your email address to make life easier and cheaper, especially as the postage rate is now 50 pence each stamp. If you would like to help with deliveries in your area, please let Lynne know on [REDACTED].

If you have an overgrown or deserted plot next to your please do complain to Daryl Chambers at the town council.

The question of keeping chickens on a plot had been brought up with the town council but they didn't think it was a good idea - and would need some persuading.

During the year there had been a talk by the PC Mike Brown on reducing crime on plots and a beginners' course at West Bay.

3. Treasurer's Report

Membership is up again from 203 to 215. We made a larger surplus this year of £119.95, so funds stand at £807 in total as of 31.08.12.

There was some discussion about whether and how to save money on postage for members' cards or newsletters, and whether the subs should rise to help pay for the increased cost of stamps. It was agreed that we don't really need to put up the subs this year as we have a healthy balance at the bank. Volunteers were

sought to help with delivering and Eve volunteered for Crock Lane, Fran for South Street and Frank volunteered to help if needed in Walditch.

4. Election of Officers

Chair: Colin Sparkes, nominated by Lynne Atkinson, seconded by Richard Edwards.

Minutes Secretary: Richard Edwards, nominated by Colin Sparkes, seconded by Lynne.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Mandy Rathbone, nominated by Colin Sparkes, seconded by Richard Edwards.

Secretary: Lynne Atkinson, nominated by Mandy Rathbone, seconded by Mary Keens.

Newsletter: Charles Wild nominated by Colin Sparkes, seconded by Lynne Atkinson.

Deputy Minutes: Mary Keens nominated by Colin Sparkes, seconded by Richard Edwards.

5. Nominations for the Society's Committee

They are: Ralph Probert, Roger Pollock , Mary Keens, and Margaret Tebbs from Burton Bradstock. Fran Salix-Alba volunteered to join the committee. These were all agreed by the whole group.

This year the committee met only once.

6. Annual Subscriptions - a review

As discussed before, it was decided to keep the subs at £2.

7. AOB

Fran pointed out that the allotments at the North end of Skilling were particularly hard hit by the flooding because they were hit by running water rather than the rising water table. There was agreement that no other areas were affected in the same way as at the North end of Skilling. Sheds, top soil, loads of recently delivered wood chip etc. all got washed away in the flood and ruined the gardening season for allotment holders there. After some discussion it was agreed to ask the town council whether they might make a gesture to help allotment holders re-build their plots, for instance by delivering a load of manure to the North end of Skilling for those plot holders there (probably 10 or 15 people).

Also in AOB, Colin pointed out that the new agreement that the town council has drawn up for new allotments requires allotment holders to maintain the hedges and ditches alongside their plots, as well as keeping the strands of wire clear that run along the Skilling allotments - to alleviate floods. These were shown to work this year! Ted pointed out that not all these are kept clear.

There were some complaints about plots which are not used and covered with weeds.

This concluded the AGM, which was followed by the Quarterly Meeting