

BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY



Centre for Local Food,
Unit 17 St Michael's Trading Estate, Foundry Lane,
Bridport DT6 3RR.

Email: bridportallotmentsociety@gmail.com

Website: www.bridportallotmentsociety.co.uk

01308 250260



MINUTES OF THE AGM 22nd September 2016 at Mountfield 7pm

Those attending:

Apologies for absence:

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.

- The Secretary reported that Castle Gardens could not provide speakers. If we joined they would include us for the following year. We could pay next year and try again.

Chairman's report

BADAS Annual Report by Chairman September 2016

I usually start my annual report with the weather, but to be a little different I will start on the thefts from allotment sheds. In April there were several, with 2 petrol strimmers and a mower lost. The thieves this time had bolt cutters. This means of course that all sheds could be vulnerable. So the advice now is do not leave any item of value in your shed; if the lock is not cut then the shed itself is only timber and can be smashed open. Having had losses in the past, I now do not bother to lock my shed and keep only small hand (second-hand) tools, canes netting etc. Of course each theft or attempted theft should be reported to the police and an incident number obtained, as well as telling the Town Council,

The society has put information ie leaflets in the Town Council pavilion at the Food Festival and the Community Fair where quite a few of our leaflets were given out.

Our treasurer Mandy, will tell us the number of members we have. Although the Town Council has 171 plots; Palmers has about 20; Burton Bradstock, an associate member of Bridport society, has 55: there is a waiting list overall of some 75. Burton has one vacancy but according to the Town council there are no vacant plots. This seems strange as there are 6 half plots which are not cultivated on Skilling site alone.

The walk round meeting this year in June was to Palmers and Priory garden sites. The evening weather was very pleasant, as was the company. Always interesting to see how other succeed where we don't. Some of us this year, have had bumper crops, others failures. Nature always throws up problems for gardeners, but this year we have had to put up with 6 inches of rain in January with 4 inches in both February and June whilst June and July were so dry I personally could not get a spade into the ground.

We must all thank Charles Wild for the quarterly Newsletters. Please help by sending any item of news so it can be included, this includes any items seen in national or local publications. Please ensure the Secretary has your E mail address, if you have one; postage and shoe leather are expensive these days. As you may be aware we have a Web site and now a dedicated phone number this is 01308 250 260 and at present connects to the Secretary's mobile.

To end this report, I would like to thank Mandy and Lynne for keeping us together but we seem to be stuck in a routine, please come and join us or at least come up with some new ideas. The Society is

Membership Secretary
Mandy Rathbone

Chairman
Colin Sparkes

Secretary
Lynne Atkinson

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about 18 years old and I have been chairman for 12 years; it is time for a rethink. I am not giving up yet if you want me to continue, but the society is on notice.

Colin Sparkes
20/09/16

Treasurers report

Membership & Treasurer's Report to AGM 2016

The overall number of members has decreased by 12 on last year - 184 in total. This year we continued to invite speakers to come to 2 of our quarterly meetings and to hold a raffle and provide refreshments on these occasions. With the rise in copying and postage costs, a decision was taken early in the year to discontinue the photocopying of the newsletter and the mass mail out that had taken place in the past. If needed, members could still opt to have a paper copy, but otherwise newsletters etc were sent out by email. Two paper mailouts were done during the year so there are still some costs for copying. Next year these will be minimal. There are still some postage costs for members joining during the year to have membership cards sent to them. It was decided to invest in a website and so there are some costs associated with this; however, overall there is a surplus of income over expenditure for the year, which means that we continue to have a healthy bank balance.

Mandy Rathbone
Membership Secretary and Treasurer 1st September 2016

Annual Statement 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016

	2016	2015
Income		
Subscriptions current year		
Direct paid to BADAS	71.70	73.00
Burton Bradstock	62.00	62.00
Paid via Brid port Town Council	<u>242.00</u>	<u>258.00</u>
Total Income	375.70	393.00
Expenditure		
Stationery	17.88	12.00
Stamps	32.69	42.57
Photocopying	72.56	171.17
Website Costs	36.71	
Refreshments for meetings & Xmas exps	32.54	35.10
Speakers Fees & Raffle Prizes	55.40	95.00
Total Expenditure	247.78	355.84
Surplus/Deficit	127.92	37.16

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Balances

Cash at bank 31 August	903.78	792.99
Petty cash	<u>37.69</u>	<u>20.56</u>
	941.47	813.55
Increase/decrease in funds	127.92	37.16
Number of members		
Paid up (some paid more than £2)	184	196
Local Food Links - free membership	1	1

Mandy Rathbone/Honorary Treasurer & Membership Secretary 1 September 2016

Matters arising

- Cutting down on printing has reduced our copy costs; our income exceeds our expenditure.
- We should ensure that we are linked to the BTC site
- Please send recipes etc to email address for inclusion on the website.
- Annual subs to remain as is.

Election of officers:

Chairman: Colin Sparkes
Treasure: Mandy Rathbone
Secretary: Lynne Atkinson
Minute Secretary: Brian Atkinson
Committee members; Roger Pollock & Tim ?

AOB

- Complaint that tomatoes in grow bags do poorly as they are contaminated with lawn weed killer from grass clippings. Do not eat is the advice from RHS until more is known. Levington have had a problem and have been reported to H & S executive. Chairman saw a bag of Levington with mushrooms inside. Silvergrow is believed to be OK as it has composted bark and coir – no garden waste. Groves are aware of this and will not stock Levington - use Forest Gold. Quality Grow is totally peat free and guaranteed. Economix is OK for garden borders. Dorset Waste Partnership may not heat compost enough. Do we have these emails?
- Neil Lovesey will talk re the bee friendly garden with wine and nibbles in December.
- Waiting lists: 3 plots are not used at North Mills. Roger surrounded by problem plots.
- Roger says that we should have some say and be able to advise BTC. We could have a walk round with Daryl to discuss problems
- West Allington also have a problem. Some plots are vacant for 2-3 years. One next to Chairman could be split into 3 but has been vacant for 5 years.
- Suggested that Paul is contacted rather than Daryl – in response to a report that a tenant has written twice regarding rubbish dumping - with no response.
- Bob Gillis says North Mills will have some more plots from Bradpole Parish.
- Some promised from Vearse Farm

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- Colin has tried to get land for Bothenhampton with no luck.
- Could there be allotments behind the hospital where there is a new development to be built?
- Chair commented that St Swithun's Dibden Close was to have had some plots - but no news.
- Walditch have some but are private and not for letting.
- Houses near Medical Centre have their own allocation via Amanda Stretfield.
- Flaxhayes will be receiving a water tank (from floor) as at present uses river and pump and fills tank. another person will visit to cut the grass. Pump has been faulty and waiting parts.

Meeting closed 7.53pm

Next meeting: 8 December 2016 with refreshments and a guest speaker.

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