

BRIDPORT and DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY



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



Minutes, AGM Thursday 21st September 2017

Minutes of last meeting.

Minutes of the 2016 AGM 22nd September 2016 were approved

Matters arising:

The Secretary had reported in 2016 that Castle Gardens could not provide speakers. If we joined the scheme, they would include us for the following year (2017) and thus we could pay next year and try again. However, as both Secretary and Chairman, thought that it was expensive have not pursued the provision of speakers with them.

It was reported that in 2017 Flaxhayes will be receiving a mains water trough to replace at the tank filled from the river at time of 2016 AGM the pump was faulty and awaiting parts. There is currently no piped water supply at Flaxhayes, however troughs have been installed but the pipes are not yet in situ. BTC continues use of container and pump which unfortunately picks up sludge from the river. In June water was not available for several weeks. The council was informed by phone but there was no response to correct the situation.

BADAS Annual Report by Chairman September 2017

I have been Chairman for over 12 years and I usually start by commenting on the weather over the year. The 2016 season had average rainfall for Dorset but since then it has been well below, especially in April with virtually no rain during the month, so it was assumed that it would be a difficult year. It turned out not to be so bad with large crops of potatoes, onions and beans in particular. Annual rainfall in Dorset varies considerably, with 2015 and 2016 about average but 2014 400 mm above according to my record since 1992. Some delayed planting out this spring so you would expect a late season but this did not seem to be so.

Bridport does not seem to have the problem of narrow paths that Burton Bradstock has. Their Parish Council are asking holders to ensure their paths to be reinstated to 2ft 6in wide and safe. Last time I was there many were only 12 in wide and very rough. When we visited this summer as a Society you all probably noticed the problem while enjoying the visit and company. Bridport allotment holders should bear this in mind.

Thefts this year seem to be few and far between but if it does happen report to the Police and the Town Council.

Five allotments have been lost on Palmers land but 13 have been provided by BTC at Dibdin Way, bringing the total to 181. There are also some at Pine View which are in Symondsbury but within the built-up area of Bridport.

There are continual reports of plots not being looked after even if cultivated at all. The weeds therefore are a problem to neighbouring plot holders. A full plot now costs £33 and should feed a small family for a year with no need to rely on imported vegetables and thereby reducing road miles and pollution, as well as helping the household budget.

The Community Allotments behind St Mary's Church go from strength to strength with close cooperation between the allotment holders, and having regular get togethers.

The Society handed out leaflets from the Town Council Marque at the Food Festival, the Community Fair and Melplash Show. Mandy will tell us the result.

There have been no committee meeting this year as the Secretary has handled all the arrangements and activities. As Chairman I know what is going on but we have run out of steam so to speak as far as ideas are concerned. I personally mentioned last year that I would like to give up. Please give it some thought. My job is simple, doing what I am told, liaising with BTC and answering queries occasionally.

I would remind plot holders that planting trees requires permission from the Town Council. Remember you plant them but it can be years and other tenants can reap the reward or problems. Trees planed near paths of course shade the plot and drain the nutrients away from vegetables.

As always, this report is longer than I expected but I must end with my thanks to Lynne, Mandy and Brian for their help tonight and through the year - and Charles for the Newsletters.

Matters arising:

- The total number of allotments is now 186.
- Priory Mews is being charged £33 for an 8 x 8 m plot which equals 64 m². Normally a full plot is 10 rods (30 x 10 yards which equals 300 yd.²), this charging rate is to be clarified by the council.
- The BTC does not now trim trees and this obligations has reverted to the highways department of Dorset County Council.
- The Chairman has complained to Daryl about the disrepair of so many plots. Colin will be inspecting the allotments within the next fortnight and will phone Daryl and inform him about the plots in disrepair and will complain directly to him. We should continue to monitor the situation and keep BTC informed
- It is essential to let the council know someone has a health problem and can't keep up the maintenance of their plot
- Some tenants have more than one plot - if this is correct, it would seem to be unfair with so many people currently on the waiting list.
- At the health centre the new houses have their own allotments provided by Amanda Streatfeild and these are administered by said Amanda. We could put leaflets through doors to see if the residents would be interested in membership of BADAS.
- The chairman has the manure information and if requested by Tuesday the 26th delivery would be the weekend of the 30th. Please give phone number et cetera to Colin; the cost is £40 a load upon delivery. Members to be emailed with details.

Membership & Treasurer's Report to AGM 2017

The overall number of members has increased by 9 on last year - 193 In total, but 3 of these members joined late in 2016, so I extended their membership to cover 2017.

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.

During 2017 most newsletters were sent out via email which meant-that the quarterly photocopying costs were cut and also the work involved in delivering these.

However, the membership cards still needed to be sent out, together with a letter, so these had to be printed and postage paid, as they were not delivered by hand.

Overall the costs for postage and stationery are very similar to last year, but the volunteer time spent copying and delivering has been cut out.

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 2017

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Annual Statement 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017

	2017	2016	
Income			
Subscriptions current year			
Direct paid to BADAS	85.00	71.70	
Burton Bradstock.		52.00	62.00
Paid via Bridport Town Council	<u>244.00</u>	<u>242.00</u>	
	381.00	375.70	
Total Income	381.00	375.70	
 Expenditure			
Stationery		17.88	
Stamps	106.48	32.69	
Photocopying /Membership cards		72.56	
Website costs		36.71	
Refreshments for meetings & Xmas exps	10.00	32.54	
Speakers Fees & Raffle Prizes	123.00	55.40	
Total Expenditure	239.48	247.78	
 Surplus/Deficit	141.52	127.92	
 Balances			
Cash at bank 31 August	1018.58	903.78	
Petty cash	<u>64.41</u>	<u>37.69</u>	
	1082.99	941.47	
 Increase/decrease in funds	141.52	127.92	
 Number of members			
Paid up (3 member paid late in 2016 so had free 2017 membership)	193	184	
Local Food Links - free membership		1	

Mandy Rathbone/Honorary Treasurer & Membership Secretary
1 September 2017

Matters arising:

- The pattern is that we have a core membership plus an incoming cohort every year, which more or less equals that leaving - thus the total membership tends to stay fairly constant.
- Costs of the website are not shown in the accounts for 2017.
- Our funds are such that the subscription does not require raising and should thus remain at 2 pounds per annum

Secretary's report

At the Christmas meeting Nick Gray will talk about wildlife, with the fee donated to West Dorset Wildlife Trust.

At the March meeting Ian Bark will talk on the subject of Burton Bradstock Orchard. Kingston Maurward do not now provide speakers unless through the college and will charge expenses.

Up to the committee to introduce new events to attract membership and in this respect, It has been suggested that we could organise a BADAS trip to, say, a country house with a kitchen garden. Similarly, a summer barbecue at an allotment plot, combined with a walk around has been suggested.

Eve is in Dorchester hospital receiving treatment and we should send her a card.

Election of officers

Chairman:	Colin Sparks
Membership Secretary/Treasurer:	Mandy Rathbone
Secretary:	Lynne Atkinson
Minute taker:	Brian Atkinson
Committee members:	Roger Pollock
	Fiona Dare

Meeting closed 20.10 p.m.