

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2010

10th October 2010

## Apologies

None

## Minutes of meeting for last year

The minutes were proposed by Alec accepted by Bob.

## Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## Chairperson's Report

It's been two years now that I have been on the committee - this last year being my first year as the chair. Thank you to the whole committee for their time and focus over the past twelve months. Being a committee member is a thankless task and tenacity is certainly required, for any one thinking of taking up a post!

It has been a baptism of fire and very much a mixed bag of highs and lows:

- Site security - The break-ins and damage to plots/site security being the main focus in the earlier part of the year. A meeting was held between plot holders and the council to discuss the best approach. Preventative measures were put in place by a working team of volunteers - spear headed by George Holmes. Thank you to every one involved in this work. However, the strongest concern is the internal theft of fruit and vegetables from plots this year. I have to stress that anyone found thieving and or trespassing - without due cause - will be evicted immediately from the site.
- Insurance - Jo Roper has been tasked, after a review of the past years insurance, with looking at and negotiating savings mainly due to deprecation of listed items, which have not previously been factored into the insurance requirements.
- Allotment Competition - Based on feedback from the plot holders this year and a number of points highlighted at the committee meetings it has been suggested that planning starts for this at the beginning of May 2011 and is more joined up with our wider group of plot holders to ensure a more inclusive approach.
- Sad news - We have lost a number of plot holders this year; Mr Whitaker, Mr Frost, and most recently Charles Labone - we will miss all of these characters.
- Show Day - pre planning by Lol Doyle and all, team work by all the volunteers and project management of the helpers available coordinated by (again) George Holmes ensured the success of this year's show day. This year being the best ever in recent times - particularly in relation to fund raising.

## Management Fee

- I know this was a bone of contention in the earlier part of the year. In hindsight it has been the right decision, given the recession, not to enforce a £10 charge in January. To anyone on a reduced income £10 is two days heating cost and given the severe weather conditions (the worst for thirty years) it was the right decision however, the management fee continues to be monitored.
- Rent increases for 2011 have yet to be confirmed by the council, although water usage/costs are likely to be increased - which Jo will elaborate on his treasures report now.

## Secretary's Report

- Thanking the committee for a decent job and George doing a fantastic job with the stores and maintenance.
- Warning letters are to be sent when plot holders do not meet the criteria, it is important that all paths are tidy and cleared for access.

- We stand a good chance at the next competition as the site has been much improved since last year.
- Flower Show was best ever and we made a good profit.
- Kings catalogues are available and remember George will be selling potatoes and onions as usual.
- Watch the notice board for any news and developments as this is the best form of communication for all plot holders.
- Alec has noticed there is a new seed blight on potatoes and Joe said we need feedback as Kestrel is sometimes suspect to blight Joe thinks this is important as December is when we make an order for the potatoes.

### **Treasures Report**

- Apologies and thanks to John Byrne for asking Sheila to get the accounts done. Two page accounts and figures received rents direct to council to get refund of 10%.
- Water Rates seventeen pounds deficit but will stay at current price as we have previous funds to act as buffer.
- Please see separate sheet outlining expenses but a healthy surplus at £1047.
- Christine mentioned maintenance, for example the printers, Joe replied that the two printers bought October 09 have receipts to show expenditure.
- There has been a purchase of a laminator.
- Auditors report thanks to Sheila, Daniel proposed and Eddie seconded.

### **Revised Constitution**

- Issues highlighted - Daniel has pulled it all together and Christine has revised it. One of those was the Tenancy Agreement; Alec asked if the plot holder died who would collect the vegetables. Lol said the council make the rules, Eric said 'if people ask associate members that would be a way of going about things', so Christine proposed and Eric seconded the vote was carried forward.
- The election of committee members:
  - Christine put forward as chairperson by Eddie and seconded by Terry
  - Lol as secretary proposed by Joan seconded by Daniel
  - Eric was proposed president by Alec and seconded by Daniel
  - Sheila was proposed as auditor
  - George as Store Keeper, Daniel proposed Christine seconded.
- Committee members are to be as follows:
  - Terry and Eddie Wilson
  - Daniel Barrington
  - George Holmes
  - Ritchie Naylor
  - John Byrne
  - John Morris.
- Christine proposed Joe seconded.
- Daniel is to be show secretary.

### **Honiara's**

Last year it was thirty pounds Daniel proposed to keep it at thirty pounds and Colin seconded.

### **Final AOB**

- Ritchie mentioned trespassing and theft, anyone caught should lose their right to a plot.
- Alec mentioned the fact that the entire top end near plots 75 and plot 47 are inundated with Japanese knotweed.
- Petrina and Maureen mentioned moving roof tiles from the back of their plots.
- Alec said all obnoxious weeds should be taken home and disposed of in the green bin. The ministry of Agriculture recommends plants affected by potato blight should be burned. There is a spring information sheet to cover this. Eric recommends copper based spray.
- Daniel talked about a bench on wildlife area and asked for volunteers.
- Alec suggested a strong bin for all to burn weeds.
- Christine brought the meeting to a close.