

Cripley Meadow Allotment Association Minutes of the AGM held on 16th March 2010

1. Welcome by Chair: Wendy welcomed members attending with a slide show of the site and all the plots and the island. She also had slides of Big Lunch and Lunch on the Green, the Environment Agency clearing Fiddler's Stream, a St Clare's Working Party, the Arcadian Living plot, members collecting awards for the Allotments Competition including John collecting the site award and Wendy collecting the shield. Her final slides were of some rubbish piles and she reminded members that they must keep rubbish on their own plot until there is a skip.

2. Members present: Aja Hansen, John Sivell, Cathy Ferreira, Wendy Skinner Smith, Nicci and Stefan Nowinska, James Allan, Susanna Pressel, Keith Holton, Emma Coles, Sue Biggs, Patsie Franks, Tim Bone, Lynne Fredlund, Jo Davies, David Feeny, Eamon Wadley, Ulla Wadley, Carolyn Dutton, Richard Dutton, Caroline Godfrey, John Langsbury, Alex Nolasco, Edward Surridge, Sam Eubank, Ros Weatherall, Sue Perry, Alex Hollingsworth, Simon Mollison, Jamie Forbes, Alison Campbell, Sheila Allen, Tony Clear, Elizabeth Sanders, Anita Jassi, David Sims, Suzanne Straebler, Rebecca Murphy, Tim Bradshaw, Laura Francis, Samantha Shanley, Reneth Mackenzie-Shoetz, Laurence Colbert, Sarah Wookey. Andy Howard and Damien Appleby from Heritage Fruit Tree Co. were also present.

Apologies: Gaby and David Topliss, Jane Mollison, Ian Barry, Godfrey Cole, Arabella White, Ashleigh Griffin, Asgeir Bjrkisson, Sigrun Bjarnadottir, Harriet Johnson, George Burnett- Stuart

3. Minutes of AGM held on March 10th 2009: Alison Campbell moved that the Minutes should be approved, seconded by Jamie Forbes, accepted *nem con*.

Matters arising: none

4. Award of Certificates to members with 30+ years membership

John Sivell presented certificates to Tony Clear, Simon Mollison, Wendy Skinner Smith and Sheila Allen. Certificates were also awarded to Stan Lodowski and Gerry Clarke and Ron Kilpin in their absence. These will be posted.

5. Annual Accounts: copies of the audited accounts were circulated. Alison pointed out that there had been a considerable increase in subscriptions and the accounts were healthy as we had not yet done the reclamation or maintenance for this year. She clarified that we still had plans to buy in manure, water butts for the shed, skip hire, path mending and reclamation of the disused area. A larger percentage of the Lottery grant falls in these accounts than next year's. The proposal that the accounts should be accepted (proposed by Sheila Allen, seconded by Wendy Skinner Smith) was approved *nem con*. The Secretary would write to thank Ken Jones for verifying the accounts.

Budget: it was noted that line 6 in the notes should read "members who did not attend . . ." Alison said that it had not yet been possible to bring the manure onto the site because of the weather conditions. In answer to a question Alison explained that the Association had to find £5,500 to pay for the tree work on the island but this money will be refunded from the Lottery so that there will be money for maintaining the mowing regime this year. A member was assured that the Lottery application had required several quotes for work needing to be done.

Alison asked members what they would like money spent on. One suggestion was for bird boxes. Wood chip, leaf mould and manure were always needed. Wendy

said that she emailed members to inform them when supplies of these were arriving on site but there did not seem to be any alternative to “first come first served” though members were always urged to leave it for others if they had had a good amount previously. The aim is to try to have it delivered to different waste plots whenever possible. The leaf mould is always on plot 57 as this is St John’s plot.

Alison Campbell was thanked for her work as treasurer.

6. Annual Report: there were no questions on the report.
Wendy was thanked for writing it.

6. Elections: (all officers and committee members were elected unopposed)

Chair: Wendy Skinner Smith – nominated by Sheila Allen
seconded by Alison Campbell

Vice Chair and Island manager: John Sivell – nominated by Wendy Skinner Smith, seconded by James Allan

Secretary: Sheila Allen – nominated by Wendy Skinner Smith
seconded by John Sivell

Treasurer: Alison Campbell – nominated by Wendy Skinner Smith
seconded by John Sivell

Other committee members: Tony Clear, Jamie Forbes, Alex Hollingsworth, Aja Hansen and Cathy Ferreira were re- elected unopposed and Micky Mather was proposed by Tim Bradshaw and elected unopposed.

7. Items for discussion from Annual Report:

a/ Audits (Alex Hollingsworth)

Alex said that the audit is done according to the rules but they are open to a certain amount of interpretation which is why at least 5 committee member are involved. The aim is to reduce the number of unused or underused plots and therefore to reduce any nuisance to members on adjoining plots. With 200 plots and a waiting list it is a large and important task. Alex asked what members’ feelings were about the process. There was agreement that the process was necessary but there was a request to make the tone of at least the first letter more friendly and to clarify what level of work is required and for guidance for beginners. Basically excessive weeds, very limited cultivation, rubbish and barbed wire are not acceptable. Alex concluded that the committee would look again at the wording of the letters but that it had to keep the ultimate sanction of asking a member to give up their plot. Other allotment associations had consulted us on our procedure and our rules and constitution have been amended and used by other sites in the city.

b/ Arcadian Living trial:

Wendy said that the aim is to get bulk material on site to raise the level of the lowest plots. It has caused damage to the paths but the Arcadian Living donation is subsidising repair to these. A member pointed out that they needed to control the bramble growth round the edges.

A vote was called and there were 32 votes in favour of continuing the trial and 1 against.

c/ Proposed increase in key deposit:

Sheila said that only about 1 in 5 keys is returned by members when they leave which is not entirely surprising but it does mean that there are a lot of keys in circulation and therefore security is compromised. The proposal therefore is to raise the deposit to £25. In answer to a question about it making it very expensive for a couple to have a

key each Sheila said that the association is always happy to talk about making concessions in cases of need.

When the vote was moved there were 30 votes in favour and 3 against.

d/ Fruit tree survey

John asked members to let him have details of fruit trees including species and rootstock and position on the plot (see Annual report page 8).

8. AOB:

1/ A member had complained about dog mess around her plot. There will be a reminder in the next newsletter that dogs should be on leads and that owners should clean up after them. They can only be off the lead in a securely fenced plot.

2/ The meeting agreed that it was a good idea to have a surcharge on subscriptions received after the end of March. Members will be notified of this in next year's invoices.

3/Wendy informed the meeting that there were 2 campers in the disused area but that the police and Parks dept. had been informed and were dealing with the situation. She said that members could contact the local police if they were aware of people on the site who should not be there.

4 Lynne raised the question of stolen fruit which had affected her and a few other members last year. Wendy had reported on this in the newsletter and warned people to be vigilant last year. There had also been a reminder that our rules state that if any member were found to be stealing fruit their membership would be terminated.

5 Members were reminded that they should not park on the paths.

6 Wendy informed members that Andy Howard had fruit trees and bushes for sale outside the hall.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm after refreshments. Andy Howard sold fruit trees