

Midsomer Norton Community Allotments Association

Meeting: AGM
Date: 23rd October 2017, 7:00
Location: Midsomer Norton Town Hall

Minutes

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** Brian Snellgrove (Secretary) welcomed everyone to the AGM of the Midsomer Norton Community Allotment Association (MNCAA) and introduced the Committee, Andy Broadhurst (Treasurer) and Adèle Draper.

Apologies were received from Kim Parker, Mark Hynam, Peter Riley, Mike Henton and David Hill.

2. **Minutes of last AGM:** The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and Brian asked if anyone had any comments. There were none.
3. **Treasurer's report:** The Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2016/17 were circulated prior to the meeting. Treasurer Andy Broadhurst talked through the finances from 31st October 2016 to 1st September 2017. Total income from rentals was slightly down on last year at £1344.25 further income from manure sales £41.00. Outgoing expenses included £760 rental to Midsomer Norton Town Council (MNTC), insurance, manure purchase and other expenses concurrent with running the association.

Janet Payne was thanked for checking and verifying the accounts and for agreeing to do this for 2017/18.

4. **Secretary's report:**
 - Tree cutting – MNTC have agreed to arrange for this to be done over the winter months
 - Grass cutting – MNTC continue to support this, regular cuts have been made by 'Primrose'. Brian reminded everyone that grass on pathways between plots is the allotment holder's responsibility
 - E-mail bulletins – Brian sends these out regularly and said that 80% of recipients read them
 - Plot Vacancies – There are currently 5 vacant plots, the status of plots is regularly updated on the website
 - Rentals – There has been no increase for 2017/18
 - Borders – Brian urged plot holders to get more for their money by straightening their borders
 - where people live – Brian showed the meeting a map of MSN on which (for interest) he has highlighted where tenants live
5. **Election of Committee:** Brian said that he is happy to continue as Secretary and would be willing to take on the role of Chair, Andy Broadhurst is willing to continue as Treasurer for this year and Adèle Draper is willing to continue as a committee member and signatory on cheques. Brian explained that more people were needed on the committee and invited members of the association to consider putting themselves forward.

All current members were proposed and accepted, new members Luke Carter and William Newth were voted on to the committee. The committee for 2017/18 is as follows:

Chair – Brian Snellgrove
Treasurer – Andy Broadhurst

Secretary – Brian Snellgrove
Luke Carter
Adele Draper
Will Newth

6. Various items of interest:

- Brian welcomed new members of the association and invited them to introduce themselves.
- Comments were invited on the use of the chest of drawers as a 're-cycling' station. Suggestions were that it needed stabilising as it has recently blown over in high winds and that drawers should be replaced with shelves to make it more useable. Brian urged people not to leave 'rubbish' - only things that would be useful to others. It was noted that the weather was causing the unit to deteriorate. Brian said that a shed was for sale and proposed buying it for the association; this could be placed in the communal area near the manure delivery site and used as a community storage for spare tools etc. and a housing for the chest of drawers to prevent further deterioration and allow dry storage of seeds etc. Brian proposed making an offer of £50 for the shed. This was agreed by those present, it was also agreed that the shed would not be locked as it needed to be available to everyone at all times and would contain little of monetary value.
- Suggestions were invited for re-use of the Grass area at the top of the site. This could be dug over to make further plots available – it was agreed that there was no requirement for this as there was difficulty in finding tenants for existing plots. A seating area could be created – this was dismissed as it is near the road which was not very pleasant and it could attract unwelcome visitors. It was agreed that the area would be left as is.
- Those present like the idea of an area on the site for socialising and R&R.
- Brian asked if further deliveries of wood chippings and manure were required. It was agreed that this was needed and people were happy to pay £1 a barrow for manure. Brian will arrange for a spring delivery of wood chippings and further deliveries of manure. Brian explained that there the last manure delivery had been substandard but future deliveries will be good quality cow manure.
- Brian said that there had not been much interest in the proposed outing to a 'no-dig' garden and the booking had to be cancelled. This may have been down to the short notice given.
- Brian lead a discussion on the success or otherwise of various crops over the season.

Potatoes that had done well were: Epicure, Aran pilot, Maris Piper, Kestral and King Edwards

Broad beans and Dwarf beans had not done very well but Runner beans were plentiful to the point of excess.

Carrots – *tip*, surround carrot bed with 6" high boards to prevent carrot fly attack

Radishes and Beetroot did well

Lettuces did well when well protected from birds and slugs

Spinach – *tip*, perpetual spinach does not bolt and is a good doer, chard also did well

Onions and Garlic did well although Garlic was prone to rust, no one had any suggestions on how to deal with this

7. Any other business

Overgrown vacant plots these are as problem as seeds are a nuisance to other plot holders who strive to keep their plots clear and the plots are unattractive to potential tenants. Brian said the committee would prefer that weed killer was not used as this can have lasting damaging effect on the soil.

Plot 49 is particularly bad and it was agreed that this would be tackled and used as a trial for the no-dig method. The plot will be covered for one season to deal with the weeds then possibly divided into raised beds where new varieties of veg could be trialled. Brian will ask MNTC if Primrose could be employed to help clear overgrown plots.

A communal compost facility was suggested, this could be on Plot 49.

Empty Plots - A suggestion was made that a notice be put in the Journal advertising empty plots, Brian will action this. It was also suggested that MSN Buy, Swop, Sell could be used to advertise.

Spring Social event - Brian offered to arrange a BBQ for a Sat/Sun in May 2018

Thanks – Peter thanked Brian and the committee for all their hard work on behalf of the association.

There was no further business and Brian closed the meeting, thanking everyone for attending.

Following the meeting the 31 members who attended enjoyed a social gathering with drinks and snacks provided.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 22nd October 2018.