

Sheet & Tilmore Allotment Association

39th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 16th November, 2016 at the Half Moon, Sheet

Committee Members present: Tim Dilks (Chair), Alison Carling (Treasurer), Vanessa Harvey (Treasurer), Abi Grute (Trading Secretary), Liz Lumb (Membership Secretary), Charles Farr, Keith Oakley, Peter Knight

STAA Members present: a register was taken and is held by the Membership Secretary.

1. Introduction by the Chairman – Tim Dilks

Tim welcomed everybody to the 39th AGM of the STAA.

2. Apologies for absence: Anthony Williams

3. Minutes of previous AGM – 11th November, 2015

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record.

4. Matters arising – There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report - Tim Dilks

Tim noted that there had been several committee meetings during the past year and added that the secretary would give further details of these.

The barbeque was favoured by good weather but the attendance by plot holders was disappointing, especially those from Sheet. Adhurst, in comparison, has several well-supported social events, including a show.

From a personal point of view, Tim said the growing season was slow to start with some poor germination particularly of beans and he recommended a staggered sowing system, including using the greenhouse to avoid a glut. Recommended climbing French beans Cobra and Blue Lake.

Club root resistant brassicas did well, especially Clapton which was sown later. Red cabbage Red Lodero produced heads like footballs.

Tim went on to recommend calabrese Monclano but qualified this by noting that these need a long period of daylight to do well. Sweetcorn Swift was successful, cropping into October with a later sowing. Leeks seemed to avoid flying pests.

Good crop of fruit.

Blight attacked potatoes in June, leading to a limited crop.

Mountain Magic tomatoes are blight resistant.

Judging – Carried out in July. Very few entrants and only one from Sheet. Standard very high at Tilmore with only a few points separating entrants. Tim encouraged greater interest by

noting that the criteria are published in advance and added some tips concerning composting and maintenance of paths.

6. Treasurer's Report – Alison Carling

Alison reported that the accounts have balanced and the accountant who checks these does not charge. Copies have been emailed to members.

She was pleased to report a drop in the cost of the BBQ, both in initial spend and thanks to surplus being sold off at the end.

The annual £50 grant from Sheet Parish Council was received with thanks. It was noted that no grant was received in either 2015 or 2016 from Petersfield Town Council and Alison has contacted them about this.

Community Account is approximately the same as last year at £1300

Deposit Account stands at £643.

7. Secretary's Report – Vanessa Harvey

Vanessa confirmed that the committee had met five times over the year. All meetings are minuted and copies are available for past meetings from Vanessa. It was agreed that in future minutes should be posted on the website.

New enthusiastic committee members would be welcome.

8. Trading Report - Abi Grute

Abi thanked the Sheet members for their support of the Shed.

She added that there was an ongoing problem with rats, squirrels, mice and spiders.

A survey has been carried out to find out why the Shed is not more popular and this indicated a lack of awareness of stock carried. Abi has circulated a list of stock.

She appealed for offers of help on Saturdays and said that she would open at different times if anyone wanted her to.

Abi said that the Shed offers good value for money and that she can often break packs down into smaller quantities, unlike at larger merchandisers.

Altogether the Shed had 23 customers over 20 hours and a total sales of £1000 was achieved.

In response to a question about potato orders, Abi said that the first seven items on the potato order form could come in any quantity but the rest come as packs which cannot be split.

Last year some of the seed potatoes were large and in poor condition. Abi requested feedback on quality.

No onions will be offered this year as out of a 25kg bag 24kg were thrown out.

9. Website update – Graham Dawes

No web update given. Show of hands taken to see who and how many members look at the website. It was agreed that minutes of committee meetings would be posted in future.

The website address/link will be included in next newsletter.

10. Award of Prizes

Tim Dilks announced the winners of the competitions and awarded cups and prizes.

Tilmore Site

1. Andy and Roz Smith
2. Andy and Jo Smith
3. 3. Gordon Churchill

Sheet Site

1. Charles Farr

11. Retirement of officers and election of committee members

Members Charles Farr and Jon Ball have stepped down from the committee. They were thanked for their support.

New member Robin Warman was elected as a contact at Sheet (proposed Alison Carling; seconded Andy Smith).

New member Roz Smith was elected (proposed Vanessa Harvey; seconded Andy Smith).

Liz Lumb volunteered to organise the membership over both of the sites.

The new members were welcomed to the committee.

12. Trading arrangements

Potatoes – forms and payment to Abi Grute by Wednesday, 23rd November, 2016

Seeds – 50% off seeds only from Kings (not anything else). Orders and payment to Liz Lumb. Instructions for ordering are attached to the front of the catalogue.

13. AOB

Liz reported that she had received an anonymous membership subscription.

Charles Farr will hand the Sheet membership details and contact numbers to Liz Lumb, who is mindful of data security.

Liz reported that there is currently a waiting list of 16 at Tilmore. The ditch has been cleared at the bottom to improve drainage. Doug Budd is going to construct a bin for the bark chippings. It was added that these can be added to compost once about six months old.

Security

Tilmore – the North Gate has been repeatedly found wide open in the morning leading to deer getting in. Children have been seen banging on sheds and throwing things about. Glass was deliberately taken and put on a smouldering bonfire. Members using the gate said that it is hard to open and that wire at the bottom has fallen off, leaving quite a gap. A problem with the gate post has been reported.

The padlock has vanished from the main gate three times.

It was suggested that a padlock with a different code replace the one on the North Gate and that this should be released on a need-to-know basis.

Doug Budd is looking into the problem with rats at Tilmore.

Sheet – there have been several reports of items going missing from Sheet. Jenny Hollington (Sheet Parish Council) has contacted the police. It was added that the Sheet gate padlock is stiff and this will be oiled.

It was suggested that thefts should be advertised on the notice boards.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that all emails are sent by Liz.

Potato orders should arrive in February and details will be included in newsletter and on notice boards about their collection.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.