

Sheet & Tilmore Allotment Association

40th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 1st November, 2017 at the Half Moon, Sheet

Committee Members present: Tim Dilks (Chair), Alison Carling (Treasurer), Abi Grute (Trading Secretary), Robin Warman (Sheet Membership Secretary), Ros Smith (Seed Order), Keith Oakley, Anthony Williams, Lynne Burge.

Council Members present: Councillor Lesley Farrow – Petersfield Town Council

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 40th AGM of the STAA.

2. Apologies for absence: Vanessa Harvey. Frank Jennings, Amanda Fraser.

3. Minutes of previous AGM – 16th November, 2016

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record.

4. Matters arising – Security at Tilmore now appears to be good with everyone ensuring the gated is closed. There are still difficulties with the padlock, the numbers being hard to see. There have been a number of occasions where ploholders have had to climb out over the gate and the deer fencing.

The North gate is hard to open and needs a rubber skirt on the bottom edge rather than wood & wire.

Parking cars on the slope in order to open the main gate has become a danger now. The slope is too steep to allow access to anyone with any sort of mobility problem as they cannot actually get out of their car to even open the gate (car doors won't stay open).

The suggestion has been made to the council that the gate could be moved INTO the allotments by about 10 feet, this would give a flat surface for cars to park on. Councillor Lesley Farrow is looking into this option.

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.

There were more competition entrants than in previous years although the numbers are still quite low, particularly at Sheet. So more entrants please. The standard was very high and few points separated the winners.

From a personal point of view, Tim said the growing season had been good with a warm start and enough rain to get things going – so not much need for the hose. Tim noted poor parsnip germination this year; that his onions were rather small and disappointing; and his

outdoor cucumbers left a lot to be desired and 2 even shrivelled up. Beans did really well, and his clubroot resistant brassicas, the Clapton cauliflower, red cabbage, broccoli & sprouts have all been very good. His sprouts being the best he'd ever grown. An abundance of pears & apples. Potato blight hit us again and some main crop potatoes are not storing well. Tomatoes also got blight though Mountain Magic have proved to be very resistant. Sarpo Mira potato has proved very successful – slug & blight resistant.

The BBQ was warm and sunny and quite well attended. It would good to see more people there next year as it is an opportunity for Tilmore& Sheet to socialise – we do provide a free hot dog/burger & drink, and people are welcome to bring additional food.

Thanks to all the committee members. Particularly Abe who does such a wonderful job at the Shed, giving so much of her time. Also Alison as Treasurer and newsletter coordinator, and also stepping into the role of Temporary Membership Secretary. NB: Alison pointed out that the latter role was shared between Abe, Vanessa, Ros & herself and that the newsletter was primarily other peoples contributions.

Tim pointed out the 50% discount with Kings Seeds that is available to STAA members, and that catalogues will be by the gates at both sites.

Tim wished to mention that the allotments should be a place of peace and tranquillity and therefore, he asked that everyone respect this and keep their use of petrol engine tools to a minimum. Particularly strimmers and cultivators. Please use as sparingly as possible.

6. Treasurer's Report – Alison Carling

Alison reported the accounts have been signed-off and copies emailed to members.

She was pleased to report Abi's shed reconciliation was perfect with no wastage this year.

Seed sales were slightly lower this year.

The annual £50 grant from Petersfield Town Council was received with thanks. Alison noted that both SPC and PTC are itemised as debtors each year for the £50 grant, but that was due to the grants always being asked for after the current year end. She is looking into addressing that.

Community Account is approximately the same as last year at £1193.94

Deposit Account has increased by 32p interest to £643.91.

7. Secretary's Report – Ros Smith (in Vanessa Harveys' absence)

It was confirmed that the committee had met 6 times over the year but only 2 of these met the recently defined quorum - so sub-committees were formed in order to put together initial drafts of Terms of Reference & Committee Member Roles. 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.

There have been 2 very good meetings with Petersfield Town Council. However it is noted that these meets are not representative of all allotment holders. STAA can only, by definition, represent members of the Association.

New enthusiastic committee members would be welcome.

The Chairman invited all ploholders to join the Council Inspections in future.

8. Trading Report - Abi Grute

Abi asked "Why have a Shed?". The answer being that for STAA members, stock can be bought and passed on at trade prices, giving really good discounts. It is open 8 Sundays a year from 10am – 11am and if there is anything at all that people would like to see in there, just let her know. She can also arrange to open the Shed for people and has been known to drop purchases round to them. Abi mentioned she is the only committee member still of working age (!), so her time is limited but she can always fit people in

Abe welcomes any visitors to the Shed when she is there – just pop in and have a chat.

Sales were up this year by £85 and the stock holding over winter has been reduced to minimise wastage. There is, and possibly always will be, a problem with mice getting in.

Thanks to Vanessa & Alison for stepping in when needed.

The addition of chestnut posts has been popular – very good value.

Please get Shed potato orders in by 3rd Nov. These will be delivered end of Feb. to the Shed, and split by Abi for the individual orders. Please bring a bag if buying potatoes.

Please note that potatoes ordered through Kings are NOT delivered to the Shed. Please liaise with Ros Smith for those – contact details on seed order form.

The 1st opening day for the Shed is planned as Sunday 1st March 2018 10am – 11am.

Abe thanked members for their support of the Shed and welcomed requests for new stock.

9. Website update

Graham Dawes has had to stand down from the committee and has passed the website back.

The Chairman asked for a volunteer to take on the task of maintaining the website.

It had been previously agreed that minutes of committee meetings should be posted onto the website, together with STAA Terms of Reference & Committee Roles.

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

10. Retirement of officers and election of committee members

Tim Dilks to continue as Chairman (proposed Robin Warman; seconded Alison Carling).

Membership Secretary to continue this year as a shared role.

Members Graham Dawes and Anthony Williams have stepped down from the committee. They were thanked for their support. The Chairman thanked Anthony for 15 years of service on the committee, and thanked Graham for all the work he had done on the website.

Previous member David Mogg re-volunteered as Website Owner (proposed Anthony Williams; seconded Mick Bruce).

The new members were welcomed to the committee.

The Chairman asked for any new volunteers, and suggested advertising on the website.

11. Awarding of Prizes

Tim Dilks welcomed Councillor Lesley Farrow who presented the £50 grant from PTC and presented prizes to the competition winners.

Tilmore Site:

1. Andy and Roz Smith (1st prize)
2. Andy and Jo Smith / Gordon Churchill / Keith and Fiona Oakley (Joint 2nd prize)

Best Newcomer: Paul & Dorothy Barton

Sheet Site:

1. Patricia Woodridge (1st prize)
2. Lynne Burge (2nd prize)
3. Amanda Fraser (3rd Prize)

Best Newcomer: Kerri

Councillor Lesley Farrow complemented STAA on their meeting and said the council were trying to work to improve the allotments. The council plan is to reduce outside contractors so by 2020 all works will be carried out by council employees.

12. Trading arrangements

Potatoes – forms and payment to Abi Grute by Friday, 3rd November, 2017

Seeds – 50% off seeds to STAA members from Kings (only seeds). Orders and payment to Ros Smith. Instructions for ordering are attached to the front of the catalogue – please read as things may have changed from last year. Please return your seed order by Sat, Jan. 6th.

When the seed order arrives we will email everyone.

Potatoes ordered from Kings will go directly to who ordered them.

13. AOB

David Mogg reported that the track to the end plots at Sheet was deeply rutted and becoming impassable in a vehicle. Lorry access from Mill Lane is not always possible but deliveries (i.e. scalplings) have been done in the past via a lorry through the Millennium field.

Robin Warman reported that fence posts between the Sheet allotments and the Millennium field are starting to rot and needed replacing.

Councillor Lesley Farrow advised that David and Robin should apply personally to the County Council for a grant to have this work done, and that they should do it ASAP while funds are available. Parish Council Community projects grants of £10,000 are available.

Alex Archibold (28 Tilmore), reported that because of the difficulty using the lower tracks this time of year, cars using the access track have been sliding or driving onto her plot and she is constantly having to redefine the edges. She has put an iron post to mark the corner and as a deterrent. She does not feel this is ideal.

Councillor Lesley Farrow advised Alex should meet with Dugg (the groundsman) and discuss having sleepers put along her plot.

Keith Oakley believed that in a previous year the decision had been taken to ban cars from using the lower tracks at this time of the year. Tim Dilks to look into this.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.