

Minutes of Corfe Mullen Allotment Association AGM 2016, held at the British Legion on Tuesday, 15 November at 7:30

People present: Ann Hewitt, Gordon Hewitt, Sue Spillar, Rosemary Pedan, Paul Derbyshire, David Pedan, Jenny Hornby, Rosemary Armitage, Carolyn Manners, Robin Hill, Mike Walker, Adrian Craven, Julia Thomas, Ken Pearce, DA and EJ Wilson, Brian and Cathy Snelgrove, Bob Cox, Mary Dix, Richard Proctor, Judith Proctor, Peter Farrington, Richard Jenner, Brian Fagan, Lindsay Payne, Graham Willis, and one person whose signature I can't read. Plus Pete Lovegrove and Paul Armitage who were there even though they didn't sign the sheet....

1. The minutes of the 2015 AGM were read and agreed. There were no questions and there were no matters arising.
2. Chair's report by Rosemary Armitage.

This last year we have continued our efforts in obtaining the best possible facilities on the new allotment site. The EDDC September planning meeting has approved the allotment site at Broadmoor road, despite the objections by local residents, environmental and wildlife groups.

Negotiations will have to continue with the Parish Council to ensure that the commitments made by Savill's to honour our list of amenities, put forward by the committee in 2011, for the new site are kept. The new committee will have to keep a close eye on this; the developers have rescinded many promises not only to our association but also to other projects in Corfe Mullen.

Carolyn and I met Mrs Blee to try and negotiate a more positive date for the changeover of the allotment. We suggested as planning permission has definitely been agreed to Broadmoor Road, there seemed to be no reason why preparation could not be made on the new site. The reply from Savill's to the parish clerk is as follows:

*I am sorry not to have responded during quiet about progress on the replacement allotments. Since the resolution to approve the applications we have been working on the S106 agreement with the council solicitors. I'm pleased to report that I hope this is almost agreed and so the contents will hopefully be released in the next couple of weeks.*

*As you will have seen they have already put in the road entrance and culvert to provide access to the allotment site and so are in a position to prepare the land for use. I do not think any specific timetables been finalised yet but in principle I see no reason why the new allotments can be ready for spring sowing of vegetables. I would advise you further as soon as we have a firm timetable.*

As you know, I'm stepping down as chairman from the committee today, and I would like to wish the new committee every success in their endeavours to secure the facilities promised by the developers.

Over the last 24 years of my being an allotment holder, I have met many allotment holders in the village, had many a joke and chinwag and thoroughly enjoyed the bonhomie that being a tenant on an allotment site can bring. Then, of course, I have learned a lot about growing from my fellow plot holders. I shall miss those experiences.

I would like to thank most sincerely my committee for their hard work and commitment over the past 5 years, without them I could not have managed. I wish them all the best for the future. I hope the members will continue to support the committee and the new site will be a success.

*CMAA presented R Armitage with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for her service*

3. Treasurers Report
  - The committee thanked Brian Fagan for auditing the accounts.
  - This year we made profit of £71.52. We have £683.87 in the bank. It is expected that some of this money will be spent on buying stuff for the shed that we hope to have on the new site.Meeting voted to accept the accounts (Proposed Adrian Craven, seconded Judith Proctor)
4. Secretary's report. It's been a busy year, but the chair's report already covers it.
5. (The elections were held in accordance with the new constitution, although the actual vote to accept it was later in the meeting.)
  - Chair: David Peden - proposed Adrian Craven seconded Mike Walker

- Treasurer: Jenny Hornby - proposed Judith Proctor, seconded Rosemary Peden.
- Secretary: Judith Proctor - proposed Raymond Derbyshire, seconded Brian Fagan.
- Web: Peter Lovegrove - proposed Rosemary Armitage, seconded Carolyn Manners.
- Seed secretary: Rosemary Peden - proposed Judith Proctor seconded Rosemary Armitage.
- Membership Secretary: Richard Proctor - proposed Judith Proctor, seconded Jenny Hornby.
- Newsletter: Wendy Dix - proposed Rosemary Armitage, seconded Rosemary Peden.  
(*Wendy Dix wasn't actually at the AGM, and at a later committee meeting she was given the job of Council Liaison instead*)

6. Any Other Business

- The seed secretary said that seed orders can still be made until Christmas and will receive the normal discount.
- There were many questions relating to what will happen when we move to the new site. People want to know whether they'll be able to move things such as flag stones. There was a strong desire to have an exact moving date, but this is not yet available. It is likely that anything taken to the new site from the old one will need to be thoroughly cleaned first, in order to reduce the risk of disease and flatworm transmission.
- Things we want to know from the Council include: what will the rent be? Will there be any option to have larger plots? How about small plots? Will we have to pay more if we have better facilities? Is it worth planting anything on the existing site?
- We are going to have to be very alert with regard to the Parish Council. They will be in need of money, as the developers have been wriggling out of all kinds of agreements. We had to fight to be rent free after we were given notice to quit, and it was thought the move to a new site may be seen by the CMPC as a potential revenue generating option.
- The amenities subcommittee is the best way to make our feelings known to the Parish Council. We have to remember that the parish council is a weak player; the real power is EDDC level. However, the Parish Council are responsible for allotments, whereas the EDDC is responsible for planning but not for allotments. In other words, power and responsibility lie in different places.
- *Our requests for facilities and improvements compiled at last year's AGM went to Savill's. Whether they will actually be carried out, we don't know.*
- What is the cause of the current delay? Is it the builders the Parish Council or the EDDC? A Craven stated he believed it's the developers causing the delay. Our current field is owned by the Canford Estate; the other 2 fields on the proposed development are owned by Palmers. The Broadmoor road site is also owned by Palmers. Hence, there's horse trading going on between the Canford Estate and Palmers.
- Re moving to the new site - The EDDC core strategies says that the new site must be ready before the old one can be developed.
- What is the best way to protect our interests? A Craven said that we should go to Parish Council meetings, but remember that what we say is unlikely to get into the PC minutes.
  - At the start of each meeting the parish Council have a time when members of the public may speak for a maximum of 5 minutes. After that point members of the public must keep silent.
  - The allotment committee will alert members when anything relevant comes of the parish council meetings.
  - The Parish Council agenda can be seen on their website 2 weeks before each meeting. Also look at the Parish Council notice board 3 days beforehand.
  - Newspapers aren't of much use – they want to print all sides of the story and will thus contact the Parish Council or the developers before publishing anything.
  - It's worth remembering that the Allotment Society committee are probably the only people reading all the documents relating to both sites. We have a vested interest; no one else does.

7. At this point David Peden took over as chair.

8. The new constitution was proposed by Judith, seconded by Rosemary Peden, and passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 8:35