

SEAFORD ALLOTMENT & LEISURE GARDENS SOCIETY

SUTTON DROVE SEAFORD EAST SUSSEX



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SEAFORD ALLOTMENT & LEISURE GARDENS SOCIETY HELD IN ST PETER'S CHURCH HALL BELGRAVE ROAD, SEAFORD TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2018

MEMBERS ATTENDING

37 members attended the meeting. The List of attendees will be placed with the file copy of these minutes.

James Corrigan, Town Clerk of Seaford Town Council attended as a guest speaker.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Committee Members Barbara French, Toni Francis, Penny Lower plus 11 Society members.

2 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND NOTICES

Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Town Clerk, James Corrigan, and Councillor Maggie Wearmouth. Unfortunately Rachel and Rob from Filmspot were unable to attend the meeting so the film about work on the Wilderness Area would not be shown.

3 TOWN CLERK'S ADDRESS

James gave a short talk saying how pleased he was able to attend. He considered Seaford Society to be the best he had ever been involved with, but without volunteers it would not succeed. He sympathised with the Society regarding the complaints we had received about bonfires and motorised garden implements when the smoke and noise was not always coming from the allotments. He was very impressed with the new loo on site. James finished by wishing the Society and its' members good luck for the coming year, and he will be visiting again during the summer.

4 MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 14 MARCH 2017

These Minutes had been circulated to all members shortly after the meeting. There were no matters arising and the Chairman signed the Minutes as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

5 REPORTS FROM THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The Annual Report for 2017 was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

Chairman did not wish to add anything further to his report other than to thank those members who had completed the recent questionnaire. He made a request for volunteers to help with ideas that had been suggested including 'Seedy Saturday' and Open Gardens; Carol Whitehead needed more help with the Wilderness Area. He mentioned the Data Protection changes which would be recorded under Item 7.

Secretary although not in attendance did not wish to add anything further. There were no questions arising.

Treasurer advised those present that the member's subscription to NSALG had increased to £3 per person. Keys were getting short as people were not returning them. The Reserves are healthy and there was money available for projects. All rents had been paid and all plots are currently let.

Members need to spread the word as there is no waiting list at present
Chairman thanked Vida for her excellent work over the last 10 years as she was now standing down from the Committee.

Plot Supervisor gave thanks to the previous Supervisor for his help during her first year. Members must keep a good site, if it is vacated and left in a bad state it is very difficult to let. Volunteers were needed to help with Plot Monitoring, it was a good opportunity to get ideas on different methods of managing a plot. Monitoring now reduced to 3 times per year [April, July, October] and 90% of plots are kept in good order. Members were asked to ensure their plots are clearly numbered and their plot defined. Maintaining paths is giving a lot of concern, all paths especially those going down the hill should be a minimum of 2 feet wide and must be reinstated if less.

Site Security Officer had nothing to add to his report but advised members that plans for a second water station had been on hold in 2017 but should proceed this year. The Chairman thanked Paul for his role as Site Security as he would be standing down from the role.

Distribution Hut Manager thanked members for volunteering and encouraged other members to volunteer to keep the hut open. Free seeds were still available. Top soil had arrived members should help themselves; also a new delivery of wood chip.

There were no questions for the Officers and Committee.

5.1. TO ACCEPT THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIETY

The Annual Report was accepted.

5.2. TO ACCEPT THE ACCOUNTS OF THE SOCIETY

The Accounts of the Society were accepted.

6 WILDERNESS UPDATE & FILM SHOWING

Unfortunately Carol Whitehead was unable to attend due to work commitments also the film was unable to be shown due to illness of one of the film makers.

7 COMMITTEE ITEMS

Data Protection Changes – Members were asked to complete and sign a form allowing the Society to continue holding their personal information ie names/addresses/email addresses/telephone numbers. The authorisation must be on paper and personally signed, it could not be sent electronically. The Chairman stressed the Society would not share the information with any outside organisation other than the National Allotment Society and members were encouraged to get back to either himself or one of the Committee if there were any questions or concerns.

8 MEMBERS ITEMS

Councillor Wearmouth advised members that a member of the public wanted Seaford Town Council to ban the use of glyphosphate throughout the town including the allotment site. Keith stated this would not be practical and cannot be policed, it would not be possible to ban a substance that was on sale in the local shops. The Chairman pointed out it was possible to farm without chemicals but the Committee view was that it was personal commitment and plot holders should be able to garden as they wish provided this does not adversely impact on others. Debate followed amongst those present and it was pointed out there was good quality information available. Margaret advised members we were not an organic allotment, and plot holders do what they think necessary. The Hut sells organic and non organic products, some items are not on sale as they are not cost effective. A member suggested members should be given information on how to run a plot organically.

The Chairman advised those present that the Society needs help with the web site so that information can be shared.

A member asked if plot holders could be encouraged to stop using plastic pots, sacks etc. and leaving them around on the plots to blow about in the wind.

It had been suggested that the Society joins the Open Gardens Scheme. A member questioned the insurance liability, the Treasurer stated the Society has Public Liability Insurance.

Chris Moore and Carol would like people to be able to look at the Dye Garden and what dyes can be produced from the plants, this would be an asset to the community and could produce more funding. Paul stated the paths must be restored and must be brought up to standard before this could be considered.

David Bramley suggested walking on the edges of the paths to stop erosion but they must be kept up to standard. A member questioned the responsibility for paths on plots not being worked. It was felt a working party was required. The road entrance also badly needs attention.

9 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Members agreed to vote back en bloc all the Committee who had agreed to stand again.

The following appointments were agreed:

| | |
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| Chairman | Eddie Collict |
| Secretary | Barbara French |
| Plot Supervisor | Margaret Linsell |
| New Members Officer | Toni Francis |
| Distribution Hut Manager | David Bramley |

Paul West volunteered to take on the role as Treasurer – all present agreed.
Michael Hine volunteered to take on the role as Site Security Officer – all present agreed.

Non Executive Committee Members:

Ursula Jenner stated she would be prepared to continue also Keith Amery.

Two members volunteered to stand Pete Sudell [Plot 7b] and Joy Wethered [Plot 70a]. Both members were elected to the Committee.

The Committee meets 4/5 times per annum.

10 **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:**

The awards were decided by the results of the regular plot inspections. The following trophies were presented by Margaret Linsell.

Leonard Peak Perpetual Challenge awarded to Michael Cox, Plot 83b;

Janet Stewart Challenge Cup awarded to David Attrell, Plot 84b.

Wally Bonham Memorial Cup awarded to Phillip Van Prague, Plot 111b

Harry Dollin Trophy awarded to Christine & Richard Moore 109a.

Unfortunately Phillip Van Praag was not present to accept his award.

11 **CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

To close the meeting, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and extended sincere thanks to members of the Committee and all the volunteers for their help over the past year, he was impressed by all that had been achieved, the Society is lucky and fortunate to have the site. He thanked Margaret and Nick Linsell for organising the refreshments for the evening and then wished everyone present a glorious summer with adequate rain at the right time.

David Swaysland wished the recognition for Vida Turner's role as Treasurer to be noted and in particular all the hard work involved with the Kings Seed orders.

Meeting closed at 2017 hours.

Signed by.....Date.....