

**PITSTONE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

**AGM**

**SMALL MEETINGS ROOM-PITSTONE MEMORIAL HALL**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016**

**At 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Annie Stack –Chair

Brian Brooks- Deputy Chair

Marjory Rankin- Secretary

Dave Lee- Site Manager

Jackie Woodhead-Treasurer

Rob Spiller

Gill Lloyd

Margaret Crutchfield

11 Tenants

**Apologies:** John Lowe

Bridget Crutchfield

Martin Newman

1. Welcome from the Chair:

Annie welcomed all to the 2016 AGM

2. Guest Speaker:

Annie introduced Lawrence Trowbridge from the National Trust who is the Head ranger on the Ashridge Estate. Lawrence gave an interesting and informative talk on the formation of the Estate and the plans to have some of the land revert to meadow by allowing animals to graze on the commons. He welcomed questions at the end of the talk.

3. Annual Review:

Annie introduced the Committee members to the meeting. She asked for approval of last years minutes which was proposed by Dave lee and seconded by Brian Brooks. She reported that the site has 73 plots (all occupied) and 52 tenants and there is no one on the waiting list for a plot at the moment. 2 existing tenants want additional plots. Mowing of the paths etc had been done by Bob Saintey and John Lowe and she thanked them for their hard work, the wild flower strip by the field had been left and was now full of

wild flowers including bee orchids. The hedgerow was now in need of trimming, in the autumn, and she was looking for a team of volunteers to do this work.

During the past year, the National Trust had given permission for incinerators to be used on site. The hours of operation are after 6pm Mon to Sat April to September, and during the hours of daylight between Oct and March. No fires are allowed on Sundays throughout the year. Bags of rubbish were not to be left on site but taken away.

Dave Killick would judge the plots again this year on July 15<sup>th</sup> and will do a preliminary visit before that date.

Brookmead Primary School had brought children to explore the site and their drawings of the visit were on display at the school during Bucks Art Week.

4. Accounts:

Jackie Woodhead reported that the bank balance currently stood at £885. Our largest annual expenditure is Site Liability Insurance, which costs approx £200, we have other miscellaneous expenses such as NSALG membership, hire of hall for the AGM, and money in hand for any repairs to water tanks on site and other maintenance costs.

During 2015 we paid £1135 for 2 additional water tanks, and a small contribution from the Parish Council was received towards that amount.

5. Site Manager Report:

Dave Lee gave a comprehensive report of the work done on site:

Due to the wetter winter than normal, the track had remained closed longer than normal.

There had been a small leak in the furthest water tank that was being investigated.

He had painted the gate and adjacent fence.

He had carried out 2 Risk Assessments during which he had found glass on two plots.

The gate needed fixing as it was sagging and he and Brian Brooks were looking to firm up the main post with concrete.

Rob Spiller was now in charge of the deer alarms.

He thanked Bob Saintey, John Stack, John Lowe and others who carried out maintenance tasks on site during the year.

The corner posts, that originally were used to mark out each plot, can now be removed if the tenant wants to (they can be a trip hazard)

Small storage containers can be erected on the plots. They can be a maximum of 4 foot high.

6. Re-election of Officers:

The Committee were all willing to stand again and were re-elected by Moira Davies proposing and Bob Saintey seconding.

7. Future Events:

Annie asked for donations of produce , jams etc for our stall at Party in the Park which will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Donations can be given to Gill and Marjory at the gate on July 15<sup>th</sup> between 6-7.30pm or to the stall on July 16<sup>th</sup>. If anyone would like to volunteer on the stall let Annie know.

8. Questions from Attendees:

Ingrid Gresty asked if we could ask tenants if they were not cultivating part of their plot that they cover it with membrane so that weeds did not self seed .

Bob Saintey asked what were the annual water costs? Annie replied that they were approximately £200

9. AOB:

Rob Spiller asked if a permanent solution could be found for the wet track? Brian will get quotes for hard core. Ingrid suggested that we apply for Lottery funding, Annie said that we would have to match the funding. Lawrence said that the NT used a form of rubber matting and he would send Annie the details. Annie and Bob Saintey would see if we could get the trees lopped or pruned to help with the shadowing and wet path on that side of the site.

Meeting ended at 8.35 pm