

**DITTON ALLOTMENT TENANTS SOCIETY**  
**AGM – 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2012**  
**DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Attendance :** Mike and Carol Hawksworth, Keith and Liz Holloway, David and Anne Osbaldstone, Norma and Mark Webb, Maggie Piper, Ted and Ann Brown, Clive Thwaites, Geoff McCormack, Maurice and Guisel Garrett, Harry and Rose Hall, Richard and Jackie Harris, Terry and Midge Smith, Mike Evans, John Craig, Trevor and Ann Brierley

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>
1.	Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies were received from Alan Piper and Jane Thwaites (Council meeting), Brenda and Ian Smith and Andy Peel. Keith mentioned that Len was unable to attend. Mike welcomed new allotment holders who introduced themselves: Geoff Arnold (23B), John and Janet Anderson (23A), Brian and Janice Palmer (22B) and Roy Jackson (22A). He hoped that they may wish to join DATS in the future.
2.	<b>Minutes from last AGM</b> Everyone was given a copy of last year's AGM notes, these were read and approval sought. All in agreement
3.	<b>Chairman's report and correspondence</b> Mike said that this had been a strange year hot/cold/dry/wet, but a decent crop overall. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Summer BBQ</i> was very well attended. Mike thanked Alan, Margaret, Clive, Jane and Harry and all who helped create a good evening.</li> <li>• Special thanks to Maurice for setting up the toilet privacy screen. It can be used in an emergency – bring your own "bucket" but it is hoped to progress further soon. Thanks also to Keith for organising the potato and onion sets from Herne Bay Society, to Clive for organising the seed order and Anne and David for delivering the magazines. Thanks also to Ted and Ann for continuing to do the raffle.</li> <li>• Mike also went on to mention the benefits of belonging to DATS which include free public liability insurance at present we are covered up to £5 million. We have been informed that this insurance is not obligatory but the Council would like everyone to have it. In addition you can receive a magazine quarterly and are able to order seeds from Kings at a reduced cost, not forgetting potatoes and onion sets.</li> <li>• There was no autumn meeting last year perhaps it can be brought back this year.</li> <li>• <i>Christmas Social Evening</i> : We had a good turn out 22 people arrived with a good buffet and raffle prizes. Thanks to Liz and Keith for providing the Higher/Lower game.</li> <li>• <i>New Year Dinner</i>: Duke of Wellington again provided an excellent meal which was very good value, thanks to Carol for organising this.</li> <li>• Thanks to Alan for getting Lottery funding for the fencing which enabled us to have more allotments.</li> <li>• <i>Correspondence</i>: Mike and the Council have exchanged emails regarding the preparation of the new allotments, Gallagher prepared the site and Mike and James Yeardsley had a wander early in January. A copy of the allotment inspection report is available, as are copies of responses by the Council to various points i.e. rubbish bins, perimeter fence being invaded by brambles as well as additional parking, water has been provided to the new plots. Perhaps it could be considered as to whether we would be able to obtain a container (8'x 6' costs approx £1,000) where tools etc. could be kept, unfortunately the council do not have funds this year.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Treasurer's report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keith circulated a copy of the accounts to all those present, these were proposed, seconded and passed.</li> <li>• We had a complete overhaul of the subscriptions last year. Income and expenditure have balanced. Subs support most of our expenses so we are comfortable at the moment, there will be no further increase this year as we do not wish to build up funds. Proceeds from the raffles also go towards room hire, tea and coffee etc. Subs are £10 with magazine and £7 without per plot. .</li> <li>• The accounts were proposed and seconded and all were in favour.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Election of Committee members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no new nominations for the annual posts therefore the existing Committee members were asked if they were prepared to stand for re-election</li> <li>• All members were individually proposed and seconded</li> <li>• Mike Hawksworth – Chairman, Keith Holloway – Treasurer, Ann Osbaldstone – Secretary</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Queens Jubilee Picnic – June 4<sup>th</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is proposed to hold a fun day on the Community Centre playing field, local clubs have been asked if they would like to participate, the scouts are providing BBQ, there will be bands and lots of displays. Alan has suggested a plant stall with the proceeds coming to DATS.</li> <li>• The majority were in favour and a sub-committee has been set up – Maggie, Terry and Ann who will provide more information in due course.</li> <li>• It is proposed we use our gazebo and set up from 10.30 am so volunteers will be needed for 1 – 2 hour shifts.</li> </ul>

7.	<p><b>Social events for the year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Summer BBQ:</b> Last years format worked well so it was decided to continue. Each bring your own meat to be cooked on BBQ's on the allotment, also a side dish/dessert to be shared, own chairs, plates etc. Clive/Maurice/Ted and Terry volunteered to be sub-committee. It was suggested that the day be changed to a Friday as those who had early starts on weekdays would be able to attend. Two dates were proposed <b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> July</b>. As in the past depending on the weather the date would be decided nearer the time.</li> <li>• <b>Autumn meeting:</b> A possible autumn meeting was discussed and it was felt that if a guest speaker could be arranged it may be possible to have a get together. This would be looked into.</li> <li>• <b>Christmas meeting:</b> the date proposed is <b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> Keith said it is not possible to hold it at East Malling and Larkfield Parish Hall, Clive has volunteered to source a venue, the Bowls Club has been suggested but the cost involved is not known. We shall be kept informed of Clive's progress.</li> <li>• <b>New Year meal:</b> All agreed same venue (Duke of Wellington Ryarsh) as the food is very good. Date proposed is <b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> or Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013</b>. The cost for 3 courses is £12 and excellent value.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Robin Webb Challenge Trophy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Robin Webb Challenge Cup</i> – Longest runner bean – all beans were measured on the same night. The winner was Mark Webb whose runner bean measured 13¾inches with Ted Brown being the runner up with a bean measuring 13½inches. As winner Mark chooses the challenge for this year – the heaviest tomato grown on the allotment (it can be started elsewhere but has to be grown on site). Growers beware of tomato blight !</li> </ul>
9.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norma raised a couple of points, firstly if you encounter a wasps nest contact Nigel and the Council will deal with it and secondly during the water drought she asked that we clarify that only blue badge holders can use a hose.</li> <li>• To clarify the use of water on the allotments we can <b>only</b> use a watering can and the water must be poured straight onto the plants, not to be poured into butts or any other container. A £1,000 fine will be served for misuse.</li> <li>• It has been noted that there are lots of stones on the new plots (this is common on all plots) Nigel has said that stones can be moved to the edge of the fence or spread over the area on the other side of the fence (not in a pile please).</li> <li>• Composting toilet (update): We are intending to try for a Lottery Grant possibly of £9,000, as other societies have been granted funds for this purpose. We have spoken to the Council and we are pursuing planning permission which would help with obtaining Lottery funding, as we need to have the permission in place before a grant would be considered. It was suggested that perhaps we could obtain funds towards a tool container at the same time.</li> <li>• It is possible that in the future the container could be used to keep seeds, compost etc as well as tools, providing it is secure this giving DATS more potential to be of benefit to its members.</li> <li>• Website: unfortunately due to lack of time Mike has not been able to update the site but he hopes this will change in the future and more information will be added to it. Our website address is <a href="http://www.dittonallotments.org.uk">www.dittonallotments.org.uk</a> and it is hoped to use it with links to other websites and for information regarding our own events. Mike mentioned <a href="http://www.gardenfresco.co.uk">www.gardenfresco.co.uk</a> as being an informative site.</li> <li>• John felt that we needed two skips this year as we now have more plots.</li> <li>• It was mentioned that the gate way to the new plots is very narrow and needs widening</li> <li>• It was asked what was used on the new plots as a weed deterrent they were informed it was Roundup, perfectly safe to grow crops on</li> <li>• One of the new plot holders may be able to get cow manure we will keep you informed if this is possible.</li> <li>• Again it was mentioned that the main path is very uneven and needs levelling it has been raised but nothing seems to be done.</li> <li>• Mike thanked everyone for their generosity for raffle tickets (we raised £44 tonight). He also said that all new members present had joined DATS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting closed at 9.35 pm</b></p>	