DITTON ALLOTMENT TENANTS SOCIETY AGM - 10th APRIL 2014 DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Attendance : Mike and Carol Hawksworth, David and Anne Osbaldstone, Liz and Keith Holloway, Ted and Ann Brown, Brenda Smith, Jan and Geoff McCormack, Terry Smith, Mike Evans, John Craig, Mark Webb, Roy Jackson, David Pilcher, Clive Thwaites, Bob Kendall, Harry Hall, Richard and Jackie Harris

Agenda	Apologies for absence
1.	Mike welcomed everyone though no new allotment holders were present this time. Apologies were
	received from Andy Peel, Ken Knight, Maurice and Gusel Garrett and Darren Cox. Mike also took the
	opportunity to inform everyone that there were 39 plots, 9 full plots and 30 half plots (2 half plots belong
	to one holder making a total of 38 available plots. DATS have 28 members and if possible can those
	members encourage the 10 non members to think about joining the society.
2.	Minutes from last AGM
	The minutes of the last AGM are on our website. Acceptance of these was proposed and seconded. All
	in agreement
3.	Chairman's report and correspondence
	Mike briefly went through events of this year.
	• 2013 started cold hence everything was late, then it became hot and dry but overall it was a good
	year, the sweet corn growers said it was brilliant.
	• General thanks - to Liz and Keith for the onion sets and potatoes, though the onion sets were poor
	this time, Keith's supplier has apologised and hopes for better sets next year: Anne and David for
	delivering magazines (4 issues per annum, they are £2 per copy but DATS members pay £3 per
	annum, the official price is £8): Ted and Ann for doing the raffle (helps to keep us self funding): Clive for doing the seed order (this will be discussed under AOB and finally to Carol for all her help
	throughout the year and for organising the New Year meal
	 Summer BBQ - thanks all round for a lovely evening, the gazebo worked well and we now have a
	BBQ and charcoal ready for this year.
	 Christmas Social Evening - again this was held at Ditton Bowls Club which proved to be a very good
	venue. Unfortunately we did not have as many people as previously, but the cost of hiring the venue
	is good £35 and the bar is inexpensive.
	 New Year Dinner. Duke of Wellington again provided an excellent meal.
	Correspondence: Mike has received correspondence from PCSO Sally Dougherty regarding a break
	in at Rocky Hill, Maidstone site it seems they had sheds broken into. They will be keeping an eye on
	ours and if anyone sees anything suspicious would they contact the Police on 101. He also received
	and email from Jan (McCormack) regarding vouchers available on NSLAG website, If anyone is
	interested they can use the link on our website you will need a user name and password (contact
	Mike).
	• Allotment inspection: the next inspection by Cllr Yearsly will be in the autumn, it is requested that he
	look at the possibility of spraying the hedge and weeds on the fence line, this is normally done in
	June and November so if you have a plot against the fence please leave space before planting out.
	The pile of stones by the hut has been removed and he said in view of the condition of the new plots
	they will continue to provide top soil. Mike also discussed with him a request he had received from
	the local cubs asking for a plot on the allotments, Mike thought it was a good idea but the Council
	were not in favour as they would have to join the waiting list and there was no guarantee that all the
	cubs were from the Ditton Parish.
	• Further requests: a) Mike had also received a request from Communigrow a scheme where an
	allotment would be used to grow communal vegetables which would be distributed to the poor and disadvantared. It assess that have a site stready on Bramston Fields (the old Plus Can Site) and in
	disadvantaged. It seems they have a site already on Brampton Fields (the old Blue Cap Site) and in this instance Mile thought that it was not compating that DATS could become involved in b) Mile
	this instance Mike thought that it was not something that DATS could become involved in. b) Mike also received an email from Kent Shed partnership offering a grant of £5,000 for a shed which would
	be used to support ex-service men, but more as a meeting place rather than the growing of plants.
	Again not something that we could get involved in.
	 Mike had also contacted TMBC rubbish collection for second hand wheelie bins to keep on site and
	when full to be taken to the Saturday Refuse collection at the Community Centre. He is still waiting to
	hear.
4.	Treasurer's report
	Keith did not have much to report this year, it was the usual expenditure, fees for membership, affiliation
	fees to the Allotment Society, public liability insurance and Christmas venue costs. The money received
	from our raffles covers incidental amounts. We started the year with £744 and ended with £740.45 the
	year was therefore self balancing, so we have a nice buffer not excessive but sufficient back up for
	minor things. Our fees are balanced correctly and would not need to be increased. £7 per plot/£10 per
	plot with magazine. Proposed/seconded/ All in agreement
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 There were no new nominations for the annual posts therefore the existing Committee members. Proposed Terry' seconded Bob all in agreement. Mike asked for everyone's agreement that the raffle money should go to charity on this occasion, Darren Cox is running the London Marathon for Mid Kent Cancer Research and it was thought we could support him. Ted although in agreement flot that we should be careful as requests may be made in the future for further sponsorship. On this occasion the request was accepted by all. Social events for the year Mike asked if everyone was happy with the present arrangement of summer BBQ, Christmas social and New Year meal. The consensus was to stay the same but if the dod and with each attendee bringing their own, and had found the latter way to work better in view of last minute cancellations. Summer BBC: proposed dates are Thursday 24th July or 31th July. (Dependant on weather) Christmas social: Thursday 11th December at Bowls Club New Year meal: Date proposed Wednesday 21th July or 31th July. (Dependant on weather) Christmas social: Thursday 11th December at Bowls Club New Year meal: Date proposed Wednesday 21th July or 31th July. (Dependant on weather) Christmas social: Thursday 11th December at Bowls Club New Year meal: Date proposed Wednesday 21th July co 31th July. (Dependant on weather) Christmas social: Thursday 11th and the club of Wellington it was decided to stay with the Duke of wellington Robin Webb Challenge Trophy The challenge tor 2013 was to produce the most ugly or controversial vegetable. There were only two entrants with Mike coming 2th and Dave Flicher Wining the trophy. Dave is given the choice of next year's challenge. It was commented that the challenge has been running for eight years to be usual choices may already have been used but the final decision is the curren	5.	Election of Committee members
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