

DITTON ALLOTMENT TENANTS SOCIETY  
AGM- 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015  
DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Attendance :** Mike and Carol Hawksworth, Liz and Keith Holloway, David and Anne Osbaldstone, Norma and Mark Webb, Ann and Ted Brown, Terry Smith, Mike Evans, Roy Jackson, Bob Kendall, Richard and Jackie Harris, Clive Thwaites, Brenda Smith, David Pilcher

Agenda 1.	<p><b><i>Apologies for absence</i></b> Mike welcomed everyone and explained that all the allotments were now taken, no new members were present this evening. Apologies were received from Dave and Shirley, Harry and Rose Hall, Denis, Veronica and Phil Osborne.</p>
2.	<p><b><i>Welcome to new allotment holders</i></b> All new allotment members had been sent a written invitation to come and join us, explaining the benefits of DATS, but unfortunately this invitation had not been taken up. The question was asked from the floor if it was necessary for new members to have public liability and whether the Council ever insisted on such insurance, but it seems that the Council are reluctant to insist on this. The new plots taken up are 9A/12B/16A/17A/19B. Overall slightly more are members of DATS than not.</p>
3.	<p><b><i>Minutes from last AGM</i></b> Mike again informed everyone that a copy of the minutes could be found on DATS website. Acceptance of these was proposed, seconded and carried.</p>
4.	<p><b><i>Chairman's report and correspondence</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike said there was not much to report other than last year was a good growing year after a warm and then cold start. This year the cold winter had delayed growing but now it is warming up growing seems to be back on time.</li> <li>• <i>General Thanks:</i> Liz and Keith for the supply of potatoes and onion sets which had produced very good crops. The onion sets were excellent, Keith remarked that he had seen some in Morrison's last year of a similar quality at 99p for 50, so if anyone had not ordered them they could investigate to see if there were any this year. Thanks also to Ted and Ann for taking care of the raffles at our functions, Anne and David for delivering the DATS magazines and Clive for helping with the BBQ and for organising the seed catalogues.</li> <li>• <i>Summer BBQ:</i> Unfortunately Carol and Mike were not able to attend but the few that did had a good evening in spite of the cool weather</li> <li>• <i>Christmas Social:</i> again the numbers were down, but a good evening was had by those that had attended. Thanks to the Bowls Club for use of their facilities</li> <li>• <i>New Year Dinner:</i> Again a good meal at the Duke of Wellington</li> <li>• <i>Social Questionnaire:</i> Everyone was given a list of possible social events for the coming year with a view to gaining popularity of these events. A consensus will be given later in these minutes</li> <li>• <i>Correspondence:</i> There has been no correspondence to report this year</li> <li>• <i>Emails:</i> Mike asked the question whether generally people preferred emails to receiving notifications by letter, it was less cost to the society therefore better value. It was raised that not all members had emails and often those that do, do not always respond, also a paper event drop might stimulate more interest. It was asked if people did not respond to an email whether it was followed up by a phone call, Mike did try to do this. Bob said he had not received any communication for a couple of years but Mike now has his email address</li> <li>• <i>Wheellie bins:</i> We now have two locked wheellie bins from the council</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

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<p>4. (Cont'd)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ditton Show</i>: Mike has the agenda, we had a slight success last year (Mark was best in fruit section and Mike gained the most points overall in fruit and veg sections) but again there were not many entries from the allotments. This year it will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> July. You can view the agenda on our website.</li> </ul>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Treasurer's report</b></p> <p>Keith said it had been a straight forward year although the money from raffles was lower this year due to the lower number attending the social events. He had received a £10 donation from Ted Brown and duly thanked him. Seed and potato orders were self balancing, as were the costs of Allotment magazine. The room hire for the AGM was £20, a donation to Ditton Bowls club for use of their facilities was £35. The public liability cost £73.90 but enabled us to have £5 million cover which is good value. Affiliation costs had risen from £2.25 to £2.50</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sundries</i>: Due to the misuse of the wheelie bins Mike purchased padlocks so if a DATS member needs to use them Mike will provide a key. We started off this year with a balance of £740.45 but due to expenditure we shall start this year with £642.00 which is lower than last year. As the raffle money is our only source of income, we could easily find we have a deficit each year. Currently there is no intention of increasing DATS subscriptions.</li> <li>• <i>Allotment Magazine</i>: In January's edition it was announced that in the future the magazine would be sent direct to all individuals subscribing to it, not to one member of each society for onward delivery. The cost of the magazines has also been increased by another £6.</li> </ul> <p>Mike proposed that the annual accounts be accepted, David seconded, all in agreement.</p> <p>At this point it was suggested that the election of committee members be taken after a short tea break, as it was proposed that the committee has 2 or 3 non elected members that could be invited to attend ad hoc meetings when something needed to be discussed. It was proposed that 2 elected members and 2 non elected members would meet to discuss any current problems/ideas to get a more balanced view of members wishes.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Election of Committee Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no new nominations, therefore the existing members had agreed to stand for another year. A block vote was taken on all nominees, proposed Ted, seconded Bob all in agreement.</li> <li>• The proposed non elected members issue was raised, this was thought to be a good idea and volunteers from the floor were asked for, Terry and Bob both volunteered.</li> </ul>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Social Events for the year - questionnaire results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Petangue night in May</i> this received 6 votes, the cost would be £7 pp and would be held at the Duke of Wellington Ryarsh.</li> <li>• <i>BBQ end of June</i> received 11 votes, again as in the past weather dependant, therefore the date would be set nearer the time, people do need some notice so as to ensure the event has sufficient attendance. (People on night work etc). Look at DATS website approximately 2 weeks prior to end of June.</li> <li>• <i>July 14<sup>th</sup> French night</i> this received 8 votes. The cost will be £3 pp for food but bring your own drink, it will take place on the allotments.</li> </ul>

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<p>7. (Cont'd)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>September 17<sup>th</sup> Harvest meal:</i> this received 9 votes At this point in time no venue has been decided but it was thought that perhaps the Wealden Hall could be tried. Keith and Liz will get prices and menus so check on the website</li> <li>• <i>December 10<sup>th</sup> Pre Christmas get together:</i> this received 12 votes, this would take place at the Bowls Club as usual we would each provide a plate of food.</li> <li>• <i>January 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 Post Christmas meal:</i> although the service and quality of food at the Duke of Wellington could not be faulted it was felt that perhaps another venue could be found. Suggestions were North Pole/Hop Pole/Chiltern Hundreds/ Five pointed star/ The George Trottiscliffe/Red Start Barming and the Wealden Hall, there was a lot of discussion with all sorts of pros and cons but Keith and Liz and Carol and Mike would try and get menus and prices so that a decision could be made. Also Carol would enquire at the Duke of Wellington if a different menu could be provided to give variety as there was nothing against this venue only a change of menu</li> </ul>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b><i>Robin Webb challenge trophy</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a disappointing show of entries this year (3 in total). They were judged by David Pilcher, the winner was Mike, the runner up Mark and the third place was Liz. Mike has photographs of the entries. Norma said that she did not mind if the challenge faded out as most challenges had been met. It was decided to go ahead, but that the challenge would be more acceptable to more people, Mike's challenge would be the largest/heaviest onion, no roots and only 2 inches of foliage above the neck. This meant that onions could be harvested and kept until the weigh in at the end of September.</li> </ul>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b><i>A.O.B.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike said if anyone had any hints, photographs or recipes that could be shared on the website he would like to receive them</li> <li>• He had said no to face book and twitter</li> <li>• It was decided not worth doing a combined Kings Seed order this year as the response was so poor last year, but that Keith would ask for 10 catalogues and if anyone wanted to send in an individual order to contact Clive. They would receive the affiliated price catalogue which is the society rate.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Amenities</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As mentioned previously we have two wheelie bins marked DATS, if you are a key holder and use these bins we are asking that you help empty them. When they were first on site they were full after two weeks and no-one helped Mark empty them hence the necessity for padlocks. There is no charge for the key which fits both bins. If sufficient people use them there will be a rota to empty them.</li> <li>2. Regarding the purchase of a wheelbarrow, it was decided we had enough including a builders barrow</li> <li>3. Provision of a first aid kit. If one is placed in the hut it has to be of a recognised standard with a green cross, with all items being checked and changed regularly. The cost would be in the region of £30, also according to regulations it might mean that we have to have a qualified first aider. It is not a legal obligation to provide one and the provision could open a can of worms! But we could provide an old biscuit tin with a few plasters and bandages for anyone hurting themselves who does not have one in their own car. It was a good point to raise and a discussion hopefully provided an outcome. Ted may have an unofficial one.</li> </ol>

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9. (Cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It was mentioned that there was a sharp piece of metal on the gate, Mike and Keith said they would look into it.</li><li>• When the inspection took place it was found that even if the padlock on the main gate was locked leaving someone on site it could be opened with the key from both sides.</li><li>• The question as to the state of the hut was raised, it needs a tidy up. Mike thanked the unknown person who put the BBQ in to keep it out of the elements, also we have sufficient charcoal for this year.</li><li>• Ted mentioned that foxes have been inside the allotments, but as they climb fences very little can be done to prevent this happening.</li><li>• Dogs visiting the site must be kept on a lead to prevent them walking over other peoples plots. Mike will put up a notice to this effect.</li><li>• Keith asked for approval to stop providing handwritten receipts for subs, this was proposed and all agreed.</li><li>• It was noted that the Council had cleared the scrub but had not used weed killer. It is not known if this was still on their agenda, things have started to grow between the fences.</li><li>• The raffle raised £31 with a £5 gift.</li></ul>
	<b>Meeting closed at 09.45 pm</b>