

DITTON ALLOTMENT TENANTS SOCIETY

AGM – 9TH APRIL 2008 DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Attendance : Mike and Carol Hawksworth, Keith and Liz Holloway, David and Anne Osbaldstone, Norma and Mark Webb, Laurie Caine, Rose and Harry Hall, Alan and Maggie Piper, Ted and Ann Brown, John Craig, Len Mace, Terry and Midge Smith, Denis Gorman, Brenda Smith, Jim and Lyn Preskett

Agenda	Apologies for absence
1.	Mike welcomed everyone apologies were received from Andy Peel and Clive Thwaites. Gurt hoped to attend but if he was unable to he sent his apologies.
2.	Welcome to new members Mike introduced Terry and Midge Smith who had taken over Len's plot
3.	Minutes from last AGM Everyone was given a copy of last year's AGM notes, these were read and approval sought. All in agreement
4.	<p>Chairman's report and correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a lot of correspondence this year mainly emails which are available if anyone wishes to read them • Had a good year – very good BBQ, everyone who attended enjoyed the event • The autumn meeting was well attended, several new members were present and we had a few good debates • Xmas Social Quiz night was well attended and a good evening was had • The New Year dinner was well attended, the venue The Duke of Wellington provided a very good meal which was not expensive and everyone agreed that it could be used again • Sunflower competition was won by Keith and Liz, Denis was a very close second • Public liability insurance has been agreed and started the beginning of January 2008 (it is for £2 million) and everyone is covered. Mike has informed the Council that we have taken out Public liability insurance. As all allotment holders should have such an insurance he has suggested that the Council write to non DAT allotment holders informing them of this • There have been fewer inspections this year, as it was decided that every month was too frequent especially during the winter months. Mike had a walk round with Richard two weeks ago and Richard was happy with the state of allotments. During the summer inspections will take place every couple of months • The Council had extended the waterproofing over the shed, they did it unsolicited and at no cost to us • Mike complained about the state of the centre path to be told it was not in the budget for this year as it would cost too much. (They will look at cost again and get back to us) • The extension of allotments has been put on hold due to the cost of clearing the ground (£14,000), the Council said if they can get a grant it will be put back on the agenda [It was raised that the Council got a lot of money from the sale of Bell Lane allotments but the new allotments budget was very small. It was suggested that the Parish Council could not be seen to be favouring a few members of Parish and not others (26 allotment holders)] • Currently there are 21 people on the waiting list – the demand is increasing in the area • It has been agreed that the existing fencing is not strong so the intention is to erect a 3mm welded mesh fence outside the existing fence to deter intruders and as added security. It was agreed at the meeting that anyone with bolt cutters would still be able to get in. • Bags will still be provided but only for compostible compost • Gate lock – it was raised that we do not always know if anyone is at the Bowls. At present we still have to lock the gate (a means of not having to lock it is being investigated) • Mike expressed our sorrow that Len has given up his allotment at last, everyone hopes he will still attend the meetings and all social events and would pop down to the allotments where he would be very welcome • National Society fact sheets are available if anyone wanted to read them • Mike also thanked Alan for his notes which everyone enjoyed • Thanks were also passed to Liz for all her help at social events and for arranging the BBQ

5.	Treasurer's report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith ran through details, the accounts show £35 more than last year • Generous support from raffles, Subs will remain at £5 again this year; the seed order showed a profit of £23.17 • DATS meal was self balancing • Manure trial exercise so far showed £43.50 in receipts. Keith voiced his thanks to Harry for the use of his truck and manpower to move the manure • Income from raffles and subs will cover Public Liability Insurance for DATS members • Summer BBQ not expensive and will continued to be funded by subs to be reviewed annually • Room hire is main expenditure but at £8 per hour it was considered worth it • Trophy's such as Robin Webb Challenge Cup, wine at Christmas, notice board under the shelter, postage are the only expenses • Continue to run as we are we have £250 in bank as a buffer • There were no other questions from the floor • The Accounts were agreed proposed and seconded
6.	Election of Committee members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no nominations for the annual posts therefore the existing Committee members were asked if they were prepared to stand for re-election • Chairman : Mike Hawkesworth was nominated to remain, unanimously carried • Treasurer : Keith Holloway was nominated to remain, unanimously carried • Secretary : Anne Osbaldstone was nominated to remain, unanimously carried • Entertainments : Liz Holloway is willing to continue assisted by Ted Brown
7.	Social events for the year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible seed/plant swap proposed end May (date in diary Sunday 11th May) venue the allotment time 11.00 am – 1.00 pm. Alongside the date set aside a tin of spare seeds will be placed in the shelter please add or swap • Main events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BBQ – July (short notice will be given dependent on weather) Helpers please to clear up afterwards ○ Seed order – September ○ Christmas Social gathering ○ New Year Meal
8.	Robin Webb Challenge Trophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith was last year's winner he will set new challenge for this year and oversee judging but cannot enter – all agreed this procedure • The challenge is to grown the heaviest pumpkin, any variety accepted • Questions were raised that perhaps everyone should have the same seed but it was debated and agreed that any seed could be grown as the challenge was the weather as well as the seed • Must be grown on the allotment • Let Liz know if you are entering so Keith can oversee the plots involved
9.	Ditton Show <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ditton Show will be on July 19th – schedule same as in previous years and will be distributed by Norma shortly
10.	Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative suppliers for seed orders have been sourced DT Brown not much different • Proposed we stay with Kings Seeds, if you require a colour catalogue phone or go on their website • Seed order meeting end September/October it was suggested we do not send order in too early as fresher seeds are sent out nearer the cut-off deadline • Manure – due to the fact that this relied on Harry's truck and goodwill a small donation will be made towards the cost of fuel/wear and tear. Harry reluctant to accept but it was pointed out that we would feel better about asking him to continue, he agreed. Although not possible for others to help load volunteers to unload would be appreciated • The question of bonfires raised, appreciated difficult due to closeness to Ragstone Court but it was suggested that perhaps we could write to Tonbridge and Malling to revise conditions whereby allotments could have a bonfire. Mike will ask (it seems that the Bowls Club have bonfires)
Meeting closed at 9.25 pm	