

STONEBRIDGE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY
OPEN MEETING FOR MEMBERS 26th JULY 2017
HELD AT THE PURIFIER BUILDING, FLOOD LANE, FROM 7.30pm

1. CHAIR

- 1.1 Sally Kerin welcomed the committee and members to the meeting. This was to be an informal meeting to update members on site developments, an opportunity to raise questions and also to make suggestions for improving the site.
- 1.2 Sally passed out copies of a status report prepared by Laurence Young for the tour by funders on 28th June. This succinctly summarised the achievements of the Society since December 2015, and included future plans and challenges. Copies of the full report will be circulated separately to Society members.
- 1.3 Sally advised changes to the committee.

Brenda Cardwell has had to give up her plot owing to poor health, so has left the committee. Theresa Heselden has been co-opted to take her place.

Paul Edmondson will not be standing for re-election as Secretary in November. At 74, with increasing physical disability he has decided that he can no longer take an active part on the committee. Paul said he had enjoyed the challenges shared with his committee colleagues, and was confident the Society would have no difficulty replacing him.

- 1.4 Sally said work parties tended to include the same faces. Now that the major works programme has been completed, the emphasis will be on local work parties. Where work is required in a particular area, the local tenants will be expected to participate with assistance from the committee.

Examples of successful local work parties to date are the clearance of three former dumping areas, paths and fences to the new allotments by Flood Lane, overgrown hedge clearance, and clearance of blocked streams. A local work party is planned for skip clearance of historic rubbish and ditch on the south west area of the site in September.

Where work is required that is outside this scope, funds will be allocated to employ professional help. Clearance of overgrown hedges along the perimeter falls in this category. There is no facility to dispose of the large volume of cuttings on site, whilst there is the potential for accidents with glass, metal etc dumped in them over the years.

- 1.5 The long bridge is expected to be completed in two weeks or so.
- 1.6 Estimates for replacing the defective bridge between plots 19 and 27 are being obtained so that funding can sought from Faversham Town Council. Funding will also have to be sought in due course to replace the remaining three bridges. Whilst the smaller bridges bridge will cost in the low thousands, the long bridge by the brick store will be as costly as the new long bridge (£14,000).
- 1.7 We have still to have sight of the proposed management agreement with Faversham Town Council when the existing agreement terminates at the end of the year.

2. QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, DISCUSSION

The meeting was opened to the floor for questions, suggestions and discussion. A lively interaction took place between members and committee. The following points were noted.

- 2.1 Foliage/ivy along the Brent Hill boundary should be cleared or cutback and the path next to the fence reinstated.
- 2.2 The brown water system seems to be working well and should be extended, removing the need to rely on mains water.
- 2.3 Upgrades to/repair of Infrastructure, such as bridges on the site, should be paid for by Faversham Town Council as the freeholder.
- 2.4 Generating power from the weirs seems a good idea and should be looked into.
- 2.5 All self-sown ash/sycamore 'whips' in public areas should be removed as soon as they sprout to prevent them becoming established. Tenants are encouraged to remove them, particularly along the stream banks opposite their plots whilst maintaining paths.
- 2.6 A date for taking down the section of wall on Brent Hill in preparation for installing the swing bridge has still to be set.

3. CLOSE

There being no further matters to discuss, Sally Kerin thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting.