



Milnathort & Kinross Allotments Association

Virtual Annual General Meeting 2020
Wednesday 12th May 2021

This AGM covers the period October 2019 to October 2020

Welcome and Apologies:

Matthew welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending

Present:

Committee –

Matthew- Gorrie Chair, Chris Callachan- Secretary, Iain Gorrie- Treasurer, Rebecca Checkley-Mills, Ann Barlow- Minute's secretary.

Members Present: Caroline Anderson, Robert Barnfather, Tim Power,

Ailsia Brennan, Henny & John Yates, Amanda & Steve James, Duncan McNab, Louise Pryde, Jennifer & Margaret Best, Carol Page, Iain & Louise Gardiner, Derek Lawrence, Anne Price, Laura Cameron, Ineke Watt, Lindsay Kinnaird

Apologies: Derek Copeland, John Allen

Chair's report:

This is the annual general meeting for The Allotment Association. This has been delayed, it should have been in December, but obviously, with the covid situation, this was not possible. Obviously, this is the AGM for 2020 so the reports only cover Oct 2019 to October 2020. We need the AGM to submit to OSCR (Office of Scottish Charity Regulators).

Because of the delay in the AGM the committee propose that rather than resign and stand for re-election the current committee should continue for the current year.

Jennifer Best said this was against the constitution, which states that the committee stand down, and if they wish to be elected, they should have a proposer and a seconder. Further, that changes to the constitution, must be voted for by a 2/3 majority of members. This was acknowledged, but given current circumstances, it was agreed that this was acceptable for one year only.

An invitation for anyone interested in serving on the committee had been previously issued, two nominations had been received Louise Pryde, proposed by Ann Barlow, and seconded by Chris Callachan. Steve James, proposed by Juliet and Scott Finnie, seconded by Ian and Louise Gardiner. There were no objections, so both were elected to the board.

Up to last October, obviously due to the Covid situation, none of the timetabled activities could take place. The Scheduled workdays, the Farmers markets, which we use to raise necessary funds. It also affected some of our members gatherings and getting together, but hopefully we will be able to get that back as soon as possible. All the member groups that we had were suspended. In the community garden and repairs to the polytunnel. Some repairs were carried out on the damaged fences and broken fence posts. The raised beds were planted with donations of plants and things that we bought. Unfortunately, there was some damage sustained to the trees in the orchard which has damaged many of the trees, that may have been removed and the board has determined that no charges will be levied this year.



Milnathort & Kinross Allotments Association

Secretary's report:

At the end of October, we had 64 active members. One member was given notice. 40 new members joined the association during that period and as of October last year, seven members waiting for plots, some of which have been offered starter plots which some have declined. They were no committee meetings held between February and October of last year. In the Community Garden after consultation with members who were looking after the community garden it was agreed that part be moved over to starter plots. Lastly, I have, following the changes to the government's data protection, will have to ask every member, when they join if they are willing for us to hold the information, i.e., name, address, telephone number, email address, etc.

Treasurer's Report:

Given the challenges we faced in 2020, re COVID, we still managed to create a surplus of £925 pounds over the year. The bank balance is currently at 5418 pounds. Allotment rentals and polytunnel spaces contributed over £2008 pounds. Revenues costs remain the same as last year. equipment costs continue to be a source of concern, costing us over £356 over the year. We replace some fence posts. Fixed costs continue to increase and have risen by about 10% of the year to £242 pounds. We spent £67 pounds on seed and compost, which we intended to sell at the farmers markets, as we could not do this, we tried to sell them on to members but unfortunately made a loss. We made £100 surplus on the bulk purchase of compost for members, due to having more delivered than we asked for.

The board have agreed that for 2021 rentals for plots and polytunnel spaces will remain the same. Because of the weevils in the orchard, we will not make a charge for trees in the orchard this year. We have repaired the skin of the polytunnel and put off replacing the skin for another year.

Chair: Thank you very much treasurer and secretary for your updates.

Treasurer: If you are all happy with the figures and they have been signed off, and then submit them to Oscr. We have to the end of July before they need to be in. If people have any questions, please get back to me, so I can get these addressed.

Chair: AOCB

A quick update on the most recent discussions that we have had with Caulders, then if anybody has got any queries or questions thereafter open to the floor.

We met with Caulders on the 29th of April. Three committee members, Colin Barrie, (owner) and his accountant, to discuss the issues that we had raised with them namely: -

1. Car parking, they are happy for us to use the car park at the moment, but this will be kept on a rolling review. On the basis that we are not abusing our privileges, if Caulders business grows as they would like, this privilege may be withdrawn.
2. Out of hours access to the site. It has been agreed that members would enter into an agreement with Caulders, in exchange for the security code, to undertake to use the pedestrian gate correctly and not pass the security code on to others. The agreement forms are available for member in the garden centre. In this way the association does not have any liability issue because the agreement is between Person A on the garden centre.
3. We discussed the working relationship going forward because obviously we are aware that it takes a long time and it takes a lot of effort to set up an association and whilst we still have seven years left on our lease. Mr Barrie stated he wants to have a constructive working relationship with us going forward, as long as we are not being detrimental to his business. That is the bottom line. I think that is a productive outcome. I



Milnathort & Kinross Allotments Association

think everyone on the committee was happy with what came out of it. I hope that members are happy that at least accept some things. Does anybody have any questions?

Q. On the question of afterhours access is that just pedestrians or it does it include cars.?

A. Out of hours the only access is via the pedestrian gate.

Q. There was a point about Caulders wanting access to the Easter boundary, how may this affect us?

A. At the moment Mr Barrie has no fixed plans, he has intimated that he may have need for an access road to the eastern field. He said we may have to adopt plots going forward to cater for this access road. So, we do not want to speculate on what might happen. But he did say nothing will happen this year.

Q. What about liability?

A. Because the agreement is between Caulders and the individual member there is no third-party liability for the association.

Q. What if something goes missing that belongs to Caulders.

A. That will fall to Caulders CCTV under usual security protocol

Chair: Thank you very much for coming, everybody, was much appreciated. We will arrange a committee meeting shortly to welcome the new committee members.

It was recorded that Henrike Yates I would like to propose thanks to the committee for their efforts, and the outcomes they have achieved on our behalf.

Chair: Thank you very much on behalf of everyone.

The meeting closed at 20.04

Minutes Approved and Authorised by:

Rebecca Checkley-Mills

Chris Callachan

Date 17th June 2021

Date 17th June 2021