

## **Cromarty Allotments and Gardens Society**

### **Agenda of 2013 Annual General Meeting at Hugh Miller Institute on Wednesday 18th September 2013 at 6.30 pm.**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

**1. Apologies for absence** - Craig Fraser, Vanessa Halhead, Maggie Dove.

**2. Minutes of 2011 AGM** - Proposed by Colin Miller, seconded by Barbel Dister.

#### **3. Reports:**

##### **A. Chair - summary of years progress**

In general it has been a very successful year with most work focussed on building on progress last year rather than new projects. Plot-holders have made remarkable progress in growing a wide variety of crops, benefitting from the excellent summer weather.

- The communal shed was moved from Sutor Creek to allotments and erected (thanks to volunteers). The roof covered with roofing-felt to protect interior from damp, and this has worked well.
- Polytunnel project was abandoned due to lack of interest, and was sold for purchase price. The ground made available as a plot and taken by Vanessa Halhead.
- Confirmation was received from the Organic Allotment Society that soil contaminants were within acceptable levels.
- Composting Toilet: members were polled to see if they supported plans for erecting a composting toilet, but most didn't.
- The main and rear entrances were surfaced with membrane and covered in chippings to improve safety and aid access.
- Clunes House Sycamore: This, and adjacent undergrowth, was trimmed by Alex Graham, at no cost, to reduce shade problems in the north-west corner of the allotments, and this has proved successful.
- The main entrance has been surfaced with membrane and covered in chippings to improve access safety and tidiness.
- Relations between plot-holders have been excellent, with minor issues, such as shade cast by inter-plot fencing, being resolved amicably between the plot-holders concerned.
- Daffodil Field: a tentative plan to consider trying to lease the Daffodil Field for future plots was abandoned when the proposed WhiteDykes community garden project failed due to lack of interest.
- As the allotments have proved such a success, supply has almost satisfied demand, and other tasks have either been reduced or reached a

dead-end, the committee agreed to hold society meeting quarterly rather than monthly.

- Courthouse Garden: scythed by Colin in March, and again in September. management as flower meadow appears to be working.
- Forsyth Beds: Winter mulching with chippings and Spring 2013 cleanup and weeding to combat rosebay willowherb have been quite successful in maintaining tidiness at the beds, but will need to be monitored. John Wood agreed to visit Munro's Nursery to source suitable fruit bushes for the beds. The best planting time for these will be the Autumn.
- Application for and planting of fruiting hedge plants was successful and these were planted by the plot-holders in that area. Doing well.
- School Project: use of beds at the School has continued pending school renovation. Latest situation appears to be that the Ferro Cottage filed is to be bought by the school and converted to playing field, in which case CAGS will monitor planning applications and recommend the inclusion of green or growing space.
- Due to other commitments, the 2013 Gardening Competition was postponed until next year. Cups were given to last years winners so they can keep these until the Summer of 2014.
- Open Day: a long-planned open day was held at the allotments in early August, with cakes and drinks brought by plot-holders and friends and family invited. Unfortunately, due to the holiday season and the rain on the day attendance was low, but those who did come seemed to enjoy the afternoon, and Colin's chocolate muffins were agreed to be extraordinarily good.

## **B. Secretary** - summary of years communications and memberships

- On the back of good advice received during 2012, we have continued with membership of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society.
- The success of the allotments at the Tennis Courts has stimulated local interest, and this has resulted in moderate plot turn-over (Paul Shepherd leaving, Helen Elliot taking over his half-plot, and Loren Scott-Lodge sharing Gill Fea's half plot). The waiting list currently includes two existing plot-holders wanting to increase their plot size, and two new members (Marjorie Paterson and Elaine Hodgson) waiting for plots to become available. Thanks are tendered to John Wood for preparing the Health and Safety documentation, and to all members who helped move the Shed from Sutor Creek and erect it at the allotments.
- Membership has remained steady, with some supporters dropping out as they no longer feel we need their help, and a few new members joining and being added to the waiting list. Total: 25
- Website has been updated regularly with news about the allotments and other projects, and has carried appropriate credits for HC and C&DCC grants.

## **C. Treasurer** - SUMMARY TO BE ADDED LATER

**4. Membership Subscription Rate 2012-13** - Currently £5 per year and due on 1st May

**5. Management Committee - Chair, Secretary and Treasurer**

Current officers are - Chair: Barbel Dister, Secretary: Colin Dunn, Treasurer: Colin Miller. Committee Barbel Dister, Colin Dunn, Jane Clunas, John Wood and John Keiller.

All officers stood down. Colin Miller proposed as treasurer by Colin Dunn, seconded by Ben Leyshon. Barbel Dister proposed as Chair by Helen Elliott and seconded by Ross Couper. Colin Dunn as Secretary by Loren Scott-Lodge and seconded by Helen Elliott. Officers duly elected.

**6. Date time and venue of next AGM** - 2nd wednesday of sept 2014.

**7. Any other AGM business** - none

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**Agenda of September Monthly Meeting**

**Cromarty Allotments and Gardens Society**

**Agenda of Monthly Meeting - September 18th, 2013 at Hugh Miller Institute, Church Street at 7.00pm**

**1. Apologies for absence:** - Craig Fraser, Vanessa Halhead, Maggie Dove.

**2. Minutes of last meeting:** proposed Colin Miller, seconded Colin Dunn.

**3. Membership:** New members - Elaine Hodgson and Marjorie Paterson paid and added to the plot waiting list.

**4. Allotments:**

**Old Tennis Courts:**

- Risk Assessment: John Wood managed the new Risk Assessment survey on Sunday 2nd June at 2.00, with Colin D in attendance.
- Jeremy Price at Clunes confirmed that the main entrance path is part of allotments grounds, NOT owned by Clunes cottage, and maintenance therefore our responsibility. However, Marjorie Paterson at Clunes Cottage, unaware of this fact, has been tidying and gardening this area. Committee

agreed that they were happy to let this continue for as long as Marjorie cares to do it.

- Sycamore and elder trees trimmed back by Alex successfully, and it was agreed that this has significantly improved light levels in that area.
- The Polytunnel was bought by Jeremy Price at Clunes House for £100. The door for polytunnel is still at allotments and Colin is to contact Jeremy to remind him about this.

- Policy query: The waiting list holds those who already have plots but want to enlarge them, as well as those who don't have a plot at all. The committee agreed that precedence should be given to those who don't yet have land. Ben Leyshon mooted the idea of plot rotation so that those without plots could have the opportunity to have land. This was agreed to be impractical and likely to be resented by plot-holders investing lost of work into their plots.

### **Forsyth House Beds:**

A cleanup at 3.00 on Sunday 2nd June was carried out, with considerable quantities of Rosebay Willowherb and Sticky-willies removed. However, the beds will need another cleanup this Autumn. Secretary to send out general email requesting volunteers for cleanup on last Sunday of October. The plan has been to plant beds with fruiting plants. Ross Couper has offered 5 blackcurrants for planting there which can be planted during cleanup.

**5. Courthouse Orchard:** cut and cleared by Colin Dunn early September.

**6. Date, time and venue for next meeting:** Proposed Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm at the Hugh Miller Institute.

### **7. Any other business:**

- As there are now a few people on the plot waiting list, Secretary will write to Major Phipps to find out if he will change his mind about leasing the Daffodil Field to CAGS. If there is a positive response, then this can be taken further by gauging local interest for more plots.

- Secretary to place Fruitshare poster in PO again to encourage sharing of local fruit.