

AGM held on 15th September 2024 at ICG caravan 11 am

Attendees: Chris Brooks, Chris Allen, Mike Thompson (Chair), Helen Green, Adele Downer, Martin Baxter, Jill Cragg, Pauline Quinn

Apologies: Lindsey Fallon, Angela Foukes

1. Annual Report

Mike distributed copies of the Annual Report for 2023/2024 for attendees to read and comment on. A very interesting summary of the last 12 months highlighting the use made of all the facilities in the garden and the success or otherwise of the crops grown. Mike then distributed the Financial Statement ending 31st March 2024

2. Financial Statement

Adele said that she was not intending to continue in the role of Treasurer and that Lindsey would pick this up in the meantime. A request was made for a new Treasurer. Adele referred to the positive projection and that assets for this year was up on last year by around £466. £450 was received as a donation from the Potato Day which was a nice lump sum. A request was made for petrol receipts to be submitted.

Some discussion about areas where expenditure was needed. Chris B proposed spending more on tools such as hedge clippers and secateurs although some of the existing secateurs may simply need sharpening. The need for new drawers in the potting shed was also noted and Martin said that he may have something suitable at home that he could donate. Martin also wondered whether the section headed 'Miscellaneous & Clothing' could be broken down a little more. The section 'Caravan/Site Hut' has no expenditure recorded; a query was raised about whether something needed noting in this section.

Chris B said that the garden needed weed suppressing matting and cement to improve the paving area next to the tool shed. Mike offered to donate cement, but sand was still needed.

Wickes may supply compost once again but it was noted that we needed their previous product which was a better quality Multi-purpose compost.

Mike mentioned the need for an extra fruit cage but thought that we may already have enough funds from a previous grant. Chris B mentioned that the cage did not need to be new as the previous one had been second-hand.

Adele had been in touch with the Mansfield Building Society to set up a high interest account. She said that the building society had been quite slow in sorting this but that it should be progressed this week.

Martin suggested that plant sales should concentrate on those items that sold well.

3. Growing Plans

Helen and Angela have a sub-group which plans ahead for the growing season setting out which crops will go in which bed and the timings for planting.

Plans for this Autumn include planting garlic and broad beans. Green manure to go in and everyone was reminded to pick kale and chard. It was suggested that a note be made on the board about which crops were ready for picking. Parsnips, sprouts, cabbages and leeks to be left in the ground. Bindweed was highlighted as a problem in plot B (potatoes).

The tomato selection had been good this year but not all labelling had been accurate. The decision was taken to continue with the same range of varieties next year as these had been successful.

4. AOB

Chris Brooks asked whether anyone was free on Wednesday 18th September as a group from the National Grid were coming in to clear beds ready to sow the green manure, to weed, clear brambles and paint decking.

Chris Brooks nominated Jill Cragg to become a Trustee and Mike seconded it. Jill has been asked to give her personal details to Mike on a New volunteers information form.

A note was made of current trustees - Chris Allen, Adele Downer, Mike Thompson (Chair), Chris Brooks and Lindsey Fallon, Jill Cragg has been invited to join. There is a monthly meeting of trustees.

Meeting closed with tea and rather nice cake and biscuits.