**MINUTES OF KATA 2019 AGM held on Thursday 17th October 2019**

**at the Abbey Club Kenilworth at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** 21 members including committee one vote per tenancy 17 eligible.

**APOLOGIES:** Ann Barry

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** APPROVED proposed Barbara Platten, 2nd Pat Hough

**MATTERS ARISING:**

* None

**CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT:**

I am pleased to report another successful year for your association. This year saw us celebrate 100 years on the Odibourne site with 200 plot holders enjoying the BBQ partly funded by the town council. Many of the new councillors joined us on the day. Open day was a huge success, with record attendance. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who helped make it happen. This year we put together a walking group for Kenilworth carnival, winning first prize in that category. This month saw your association take a stall at the Eco fair at St John’s church, further extending our reach into the community. A defibrillator has been fitted to the shed, partly funded by your association. This is for the benefit of plot holders and the wider community.

The trading shed has had a good year, with increased sales and profit. The acquisition of a rotavator for hire is another benefit for plot holders. Peat-free compost is now being stocked together with an organic weed killer. I would like to thank Pete and Trudy for their excellent management and the volunteers who turn up each weekend.

The committee has met regularly throughout the year and a considerable number of hours have been spent organising and running the association. I would like to thank all members of the committee for their efforts. I would particularly like to thank Paula, who has had a very busy year.

After the last AGM the secretary and I met the leader of the council and the town clerk, our landlords, to promote our excellent work looking after a very important asset for the town. I am pleased to report an excellent working relationship is maintained and exciting plans for new allotments in the future.

Once again our objectives have been met, engaging with the community, promoting allotments and providing a safe, enjoyable, well-maintained place for like-minded people to grow their own food.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**  The Association remains in a strong financial position – we have returned a net excess of £2268 income over expenditure, against last year of £1415, an increase of £852. The only major projects this year were the purchase of a rotavator, gazebo and defibrillator at a total of £1643. The core cost report shows an excess this year of £737. This is slightly misleading as we did not incur any water charges as a result of change of supplier. These charges are normally about £750. Core income is up by £470. This indicates that we are covering core costs, the shop and open events enable us to return a healthy surplus. The open days/events continue to make an important contribution to our finances, raising over £2310, against costs of £778. The shop continues to be an important asset of the association with a net profit this year of £1128 against £794 last year. This year the association held its centenary party at a net cost of £546. In conclusion the balance sheet confirms the financial strength of the association. Creditors of £1970 are made up of £1470 for rent to the council for this year, not yet invoiced, and a provision of £500 for refreshments paid by the council, to be invoiced to the association.

The Chairman asked for a proposer: to approve the financial report Pete Hayes came forward seconded by Louise Baynton.

**RENT INCREASE**

The Chairman said you will be pleased to hear there were no plans to increase the rent this year.

**THE ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:**

The Chairman said the committee was willing to stand again and asked for a proposer: Martin Partridge came forward, seconded by Monique Morris.

**MOTIONS:**

* Constitution – Chairman said he would like the meeting to adopt the proposed constitution to regularise KATA’s present operation. Motion passed 16 votes for.
* KATA is conscious of the need to protect and enhance soil quality and plant life on land within KATA’s care. KATA will positively encourage allotment holders to a) take an organic approach to growing and harvesting, and b) use environmentally friendly methods of pest control. We state this as our commitment in this our 100th year, and dedicate this approach for future generations. Proposed by Pat Hough, seconded by Nigel Wells.

The chairman responded

The committee opposes this motion on the grounds that it doesn’t feel the association should be telling plot holders which style of gardening they should follow. To favour one style is to imply another is inferior. Plot holders should be free to use non-organic products that are deemed to be safe by the regulators. The committee and plot holders are environmentally aware and keen to protect our local and wider environment. Many garden with the environment in mind and with the phasing out of various inorganic products we are moving in a good direction. There is an abundance of information in books, magazines and the internet for plot holders to make informed decisions without the need to be told by us. I ask members to vote with the committee against this motion.

Motion rejected 8 for, 9 against.

There was a brief discussion concerning the wording of the rejected motion, which led to the proposal to modifiy the wording which replaced “positively” and the word “organic” with “will encourage allotment holders to take an environmentally, ecologically friendly approach to methods of growing, harvesting and pest control. The committee would be willing to support such an aim and the chairman asked for a show of hands 14 for none against.

**ANY OTHER BUISNESS:**

* A member raised a question about the proposed traffic calming measures outside Beehive Hill site. Site rep. David Hoy outlined the proposals that have been agreed with WCC. He added that it was as good result for the association.
* A member asked if anyone had had defibrillator training. Trudy Hayes said training was not necessary to use it as the machine gives instructions, there were CPR training days planned in the trading shed and the Abbey doctors’ surgery holds training once a month.
* A member asked if the committee would consider a policy of encouraging members not to buy plastic and to use existing pots, seed trays etc until worn out then throw them away and use non plastic alternatives. They suggested this could be covered by the previous motion of environmentally, ecologically friendly approach to gardening. The Vice Chairman said the committee would be happy to look into this, also he would look to stocking non plastic alternatives in the trading shed but they had to be affordable or they would not sell.

**MEETING CLOSED AT: 8.30PM**

***Status: approved at AGM held on 01/07/21***