



Watlington Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Kristina Tynan
Watlington Parish Council
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee Held on Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7.30pm in the West Room

Present:

Committee:

Kirsty Robinson-Ward, Josh Robinson-Ward, James Tappin, Gerald Short, Gill Bindoff, Steve Fanning

Plot holders: 2

WPC Representatives: Ian Hill, Roger Beattie

Officer: Kristina Tynan

01/23 Apologies for Absence

Johanna Hoffbeck, Fergus Lapage

02/23 Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

03/23 Approval of Minutes from 29/11/22

Resolved: That the minutes of the 29th November April 2022 be agreed as a correct record and they were signed by KRW

04/23 Management Issues

1. No Dogs review

There was much discussion on this, and it was noted that the feedback received showed the majority vote of plot holders were in favour of allowing dogs.

Resolved: to allow plot holders to bring their dogs on site, under the strict conditions set out below. This will be on a trial basis until September 2023.

a. **Dog owners will need to sign a permission form** which lays out clear rules of what they can and can't do at the allotments. This will include keeping dogs on a tight leash until the owner gets to their plot, keeping dogs on a leash at all times, staying on the owner's plot at all times, removing any mess and generally being well behaved. If dog owners break these rules their right to have a dog on the allotment will be revoked. If rules are continuously broken by the majority, then the no dog rule will be reinstated.

b. **Dog waste must be removed from the site.** There is a dog waste bin by Rainbow Nursery, do not put your dog's waste on your compost.

c. **Gates to the allotments must be closed.** The signs which say PRIVATE LAND and NO DOGS ALLOWED are on the front of these gates so when shut not only will it discourage people from walking through, but they will also be able to read the signs.

The committee will look at reinforcing the fence along the back of the allotments and adding meshing to the bottom of the main gate by the school end to stop other dogs not on leads coming under.

The plan is to implement these changes as soon as practically possible.

2. Plot 31

It was noted that the plot owner is not well, and a friend has offered to look after his plot. Josh will contact him to see if he needs any help with this.

3. Road repairs

Resolved: That we order 45 tonnes of 70/30 stone to dust, in stages. It will be delivered on a small tipper truck by Mobbs of Wheatley. A volunteer group will help to spread and level it as poured.

4. Quarterly newsletter

This will be sent out shortly and a piece will be sent into the Watlington Times.

It was noted that now there is a strimmer and mower available plot holders have no excuse to not cut the paths around their allotments.

5. Plot availability update

At present there are 9 people on the waiting list. An inspection was carried out last week, JRW and KRW reported that the standard of the allotments has improved greatly since the last inspection. There are concerns about a few plots and the plot holders will be contacted, some plot holders will be given final warnings.

6. Hazels and hedge cutting

This was a great community event with a lot of people helping.

7. Memorial Bench

It was agreed that this would be a good idea and KRW/JRW will look into options..

8. Amendments to Tenancy Agreement

The point on bonfires was reviewed so the bonfire para needs removing.

JRW and KRW said that, if possible, they would like to be able to email plot holders directly. KT will check the GDPR terms.

9. Compostable Toilet/Shed Update

This is working very well and needs referencing in the tenancy agreement above.

10. Any outstanding development proposals

No update at this stage, no planning application has been sent in to date.

11. Love Lane Pathway

The privet hedge was taken out and the path is looking better but still needs something to be put on the surface. It was noted that George Bruce did a lot of work on this path.

Resolved: That we install a gate at the entrance. The Operations Committee will do this. It was noted that it will need self-closing hinges.

12 Applications for structures/tree (this form needs to be amended)

Resolved: That permission be given for a shed on Plot 86.

05/23 Allotment Finances

1 Budget Update 2022/2023 and Financial Information – KT will send this information out shortly. KT was asked to send out the water costs for the last few years.

2. Any items that need to be purchased

Resolved: That we order manure for the allotments. A ten-ton drop will cost in the region of £350.

3. **Rents** – These were due on 1st October 2022. It was noted that most people have paid, and the outstanding ones have been chased up.

4. **Individual plot rents need review** - many are incorrect for plot sizes.

JT has started measuring out plots and JRW AND KRW will help him to complete this. A price per sqm for example can then be used to ensure that plot holders are paying the correct amount for their plots.

GS asked that an amended map be available for the next meeting.

06/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that there will be a meeting in July, before the 20th. JRW and KRW will send dates to KT.

07/23 Any Other Business

Visits - The Robins from the Primary School had a visit to the allotments and did some planting of seeds. KRW and JRW will encourage more communication with the Primary School.

Raised Beds for disabled use – JRW is looking into this.

Plant Sale – This will be held on Sunday 21st May at the Allotments.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.35PM