



Minutes of the Meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee on Thursday 10th January 2019 at 8pm In the Community Office

AGENDA

Present:

Allotment Holders: George Bruce, Robert Rogers, Jane Beard, Sally Stewart, Marie-Claire Allen, Shane McIntyre, Gerald Short, Keith Gambriel.

WPC Representatives: Nicky Smallbone, Matt Reid

Officer: Kristina Tynan

George Bruce presided over the meeting until the election of Chairman.

01/19 Election of Chairman

Gerald Short proposed George Bruce and Nicky Smallbone seconded. There were no other nominations.

Vote: 8 in favour, 2 against

Resolved: That George Bruce be elected as Chairman

02/19 Election of Vice-Chairman

George Bruce proposed Robert Rogers and Sally Stewart seconded. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Robert Rogers be elected as Vice-Chairman

03/19 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

04/19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

05/19 Management Issues

1 **Gate by School End** – This is broken & needs fixing

The gate at the school end of the Allotment needs fixing. One post needs to be replaced. It also needs to have a weighted chain put on the gate to act as stop. The soil also needs levelling out in this location.

Agreed: That the Clerk obtain quotes for this work and organise for this to be done. She will liaise with RR regarding this work.

2. **Noticeboard** – All materials have been bought – This needs to be installed.

It was noted that this should be put up very shortly. The Clerk reported that it had been mentioned that the noticeboard which is presently being made may be a bit small for what we now require in terms of notices etc. It was suggested that the small one be put at the school end of the allotments and a larger one be purchased to put in the middle. It was agreed that the small noticeboard be put up in the middle now and the Clerk to get costing for noticeboards for the next meeting.

06/19 Allotment Finances - Update KT

KT gave a general overview of the Allotment finances since 2015.

The Clerk stated that she has been in touch with Thames Water regarding the monthly direct debits for water which she thinks are too high. GB took a meter reading which was 7307 and RR confirmed that this is the same reading as the one he took on the 11/11/2018 just before he turned off the water for the winter.

The Clerk will send an email to all members once Thames Water have got back to her. JB brought up the

issue of some allotment holders using more water than others. It was noted that some water contributions are made. GS said that he would look at usage figures for water.

It was noted that the budget for 2018/2019 for expenditure was £350 but this has been increased to £850 for 2019/2020.

07/19 General Issues

1 Deterrent from Vandals and dog problems.

Dogs should not be allowed on Allotment Land and notices to be put up on the two gates into the land. The Clerk will organise these to be made and put up.

It was noted that Icknield students have been seen wandering through the allotment both in and out of school hours. RR has sent an email to ICC. MR, who is one of the liaison Parish Councillors for the College will also speak to the head teacher regarding this.

It was also agreed that Year 7 students may like to have some organised tours around the Allotments and MR will also raise this with the Head teacher.

2 Neglected Allotment Plot– can we tighten the rules up as this can cause real issues when trying to get a plot taken on by a new plot holder.

The neglected plots and how to deal with these was discussed. It was agreed that a special covering be put over these to keep down the weeds and keep light off them. GB said he has probably got enough to cover them but if not, the Clerk will order more. It was noted that pallets will need to be placed on top of the cover. JB said she can get some more pallets if needed. GB and SS will organise the covers.

At present there are 5 empty plots. It was suggested that one could be used for allotment items if needed.

It was also agreed that the Allotment Holders present will each keep an eye on the plots nearest to them and they can then raise any issues that they notice.

The Clerk will send out a map of the plots which can then be allocated to each member. This will be useful before the new agreements are signed in April as some plots may not have their agreements renewed.

It was noted that it would be very useful to have an information sheet for new plot holders.

3 Consideration of a deposit for placing of 'structures' to cover the cost of removing them when a plot has been given up.

It was agreed that no action on this at present.

Footpath from bottom of Love Lane to the Allotments. The Clerk reported that this path is not registered to anyone and asked if this is something the Parish Council should look at registering as an access to the Allotments. The Committee agreed that this would be a sensible move.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: That they investigate registering this path to the allotments.

4. Column in the Watlington Times.

GS brought up the idea of having a monthly column in the Watlington Times. It was thought that this would be a great idea and can be used to inform residents of issues, planting times etc.

Agreed that GS will write this up and sent to RR and KT prior to being sent for publication. GS will contact the Watlington Times.

08/19 Items for Information

1. WPC have joined the Allotment Society – The information pack is held in the office if members wish to have a look at it.

09/19 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

Issues

Rent Increases for April 2019

Trees

Animal Rules

Updates

Information Sheets

Gate

Noticeboard

Water

10/19 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in early March, prior to the AGM in April. A date will be sent out ASAP.

11/19 Any Other Business

Recreation/Allotment Hedge -GB said that the recreation side and top of the hedge was cut in November (Cut 2) which is a very good time and asked that this be done at the same time next year. The Clerk will put this on the schedule for cutting. The Allotment side hedge has also been cut and GB just needs to get rid of the cuttings.

Stones – to ask allotment holders to put stones on the paths or put them in the buckets when they are digging their plots.

Water Taps - RR said some taps need replacing and to liaise with the Clerk if more need ordering.

Trees on the Allotment – It was noted that these need looking at. – To find out more information for next meeting. The Clerk will speak also to our Tree Wardens.

Animals eg chickens etc – to find out the rules relating to these on allotment land.

Land Registry - The Clerk will check if the Allotments have been formally registered with Land Registry.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.16pm