



Minutes of the Meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee Held on Thursday 14th March 2019 at 8pm In the Community Office

Present

Committee:

Allotment Holders:

George Bruce (Chairman), Robert Rogers (Vice-Chairman)
Sally Stewart, Shane McIntyre, Gerald Short, Keith Gambriel.

WPC Representatives: Nicky Smallbone, Matt Reid

Officer: Kristina Tynan

12/19 Apologies for Absence

Marie-Claire Allen, Jane Beard.

13/19 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

14/19 Approval of Minutes

One change was agreed on Election of Chairman (Minute 01/19 refers) the vote in favour should read 6 not 8.

Resolved: That with the agreed change above the Minutes from the Meeting held on the 10th January 2019 which were received by Council on 12/2/2019 to be signed by the Chairman

15/19 Management Issues

1 Gate by School End – A new gate with a stop has been installed. Consideration of putting up a sign saying 'Please shut the gate' or some other wording.

After discussion, SMI has some ready-made signs which he will give to RR. These will be put up.

2 Noticeboard – All materials have been bought
RR said that this should be put up very soon.

3 New Noticeboard – KT will bring some designs and costs to the next meeting.

4 Water Taps – RR has bought new taps. KT will re-imburse him.

5 Request for Polytunnel – An application had been sent in by MC Allen
It was noted that the measurements all comply with our regulations.

APPLICATION APPROVED

16/19 Allotment Finances

1 Budget Update – KT will email out an end of year report after 31/3/2019.

2 Agreement on the rent increase for allotment plots for 2019/2020

RECOMMENDATION TO OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: That an increase of £1 per allotment holder for the year 2019/2020 be agreed.

3 Water useage of plots and meter reading update

We have yearly meter readings and KT will put together a table with the actual annual costs and email out to Members. She reported that she has been sent an estimated bill for water useage for the next year which is £12,500. This is obviously an error and she will contact Thames Water and sort out. RR said that there are no leaks in the pipes.

Discussion took place about water butts and it was thought that all plots should have one. It was agreed that any new build sheds should be asked to put up guttering and use water butts. KT. will see if we can get any free of charge. SMI said that he has lots of drums that could be used for this purpose. They would need to have the tops cut off and a tap put in. RR will have a look at these.

4. Other Financial Issues

It was noted that future costs could include tree work, new water pipes, extension of the water pipes to all the plots as some do not have any taps very close.

17/19 General Issues

1 Deterrent from Vandals and dog problems – KT will order Dogs on Leads signs. RR will liaise with her as to size and number required.

2 Tour of Allotments for students – MR said he has raised this issue with ICC and it is thought that this would be possible for one year group and this could be tied in with one of their subjects. As regards ICC students walking through the allotment in and out of school time, he will ask them to put this in one of their newsletters. The allotments are not a through way.

3 Neglected Allotment Plot– All allotment holders to give their list of neglected plots they have noticed. A list has been put together. KT/NS and RR will draft a letter to be sent to these plot holders which will state their allotment agreement will not be renewed for 2019/2020. RR has taken some photos and will take some more.

4 Putting pallets on neglected plots – It was noted that all the neglected plots if not rented out should have membrane put on top and weighted down. If the plot is very neglected then they should not be rented out until next year when the membrane has done its work.

5 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 we do not do this at present.

6 Watlington Allotment Column – RR and GS to update

This is now in every month of the Watlington Times and it was noted that this is very useful and interesting. Committee members to give any ideas to GS and RR. Thanks, were given to them for doing this.

7 Trees in the Allotment – KT has asked our tree wardens to have a look at these.

8 Rules regarding plots with animals on them. Should we have a guidance policy on these- RR gave out some information about rules on theses from the Allotment Society. This information should be given to any plot holders with animals/poultry on them. This should also be on the noticeboard.

9. Allotment Open Day – Discussion and date to be proposed – After discussion it was agreed that this be tied in with Open Garden Event. KT will speak to Terry Jackson who is organising this and will report back to Members.

10 Allotments AGM – As the new Allotment Sub-Committee is now part of the Parish Council it was agreed that we do not need an AGM. A report will be given at the Annual Parish Council Meetings. In line with other

Parish Council Committees, election of Chair and Vice Chair will be on the agenda for the first meeting in May/June.

18/19 Items for Information

7.1 Allotment Magazine – 1st Quarter of 2019 -This is held in the office

20/19 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

May/June 2019 – Meeting Election of Chair and Vice-Chairman

21/19 Date of Next Meeting

KT will send out 2 dates for the next meeting and the one that most people can attend will be chosen. It was agreed that Thursday is the best day to hold these meetings.

22/19 Any Other Business -

Allotments for Exercise and Companionship- GB said he has had the idea to link in with the Surgery to provide an opportunity for people to help with the allotments. They would be buddied up with a specific allotment holder and could provide exercise, for people who perhaps do not want to go to the gym. It could also be offered to people who may need some companionship. It was thought that this would be a good idea. KT will speak to the Doctors in the first instance to get their view. We can then discuss how to move this forward. There is also the group 'Friends of Watlington Hospital' who could also be contacted.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.07PM

1 Old School Place, Gorwell, Watlington, Oxon. OX49 5QH. Tel: 01491 613867.
Email: wpc@watlington-oxon-pc.gov.uk Website: www.watlington.org