



Minutes of the Meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee Held on Thursday 16th September 2021 at 7.30pm at Watlington Sports Pavilion (off Shirburn Road)

Present:

Committee:

Allotment Holders:

George Bruce, James Tappin, Kirsty Robinson-Ward, Josh Robinson-Ward, Gill Bindoff, Stephen Fanning

WPC Representative: Roger Beattie, Ian Hill

Members of the Public: Robin Proctor

12/21 Election of Chair

James Tappin proposed Kirsty and Josh Robinson-Ward as Co-Chairs and this was seconded by SF. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Kirsty and Josh Robinson-Ward be elected as Co-Chairs.

GB was thanked for all his hard work as Chair over many many years and was presented with a photo book and gifts.

13/21 Election of Vice-Chair

Resolved: That this be deferred to the next meeting.

14/21 Apologies for Absence

Fergus Lapage, Gerald Short.

15/21 Declarations of Interest

James Tappin declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6:5 as he has put in a quote for the works and will be reviewing his quote when requested. He did not take part in discussions or vote on this item.

16/21 Approval of Minutes

One change was agreed, Minute 07/21 Tenancy Agreement, that the word 'agreement' be changed to 'discussion'.

Resolved: That with the one change agreed above to approve the Minutes from the Meeting on the 28th June 2021 which were received by Council on 13/7/2021 and to be signed by the Chair.

17/21 Management Issues

1. **Initial discussion on allocation of 'jobs' by allotment committee** – It was agreed that KRW and JRW meet up with GB and then put together a list of jobs needed which can then be allocated to specific people. A date in October for a clear up day will be circulated and it was noted that we will need plot holders to volunteer to help.

2. **New Noticeboard** – GB and SF will put this up next to the existing one. There will also be a box there of tools that can be shared.

3. **Quarterly newsletter** – JRW will do a piece on Water Usage for the next newsletter and will pass this onto GS. It was noted that all sheds should have drainpipes and water butts where

possible. It was agreed that GB write a piece on how to prune and trim trees and hedges for a future newsletter.

4 Plot Availability Update – GB said that there will be 2 plots available soon. Everyone on the waiting list will then have been accommodated.

5 Extension of Water Pipes / Water Supply – A revised quote from James Tappin had been received, it was noted that with the budgeted money we are approx. £1000 short. A grant application will be sent to Freddie Van Meirlo at OCC.

6 The middle pathway to the allotments from Love Lane – this is now in the ownership of the WPC. Regarding the hedge by the school this is desperate need of cutting and OCC to be asked to cut this back. IH to check this hedge by Rainbow Nursery.

7 Biannual Inspection – JRW, KRW and GB will conduct an inspection this weekend on each plot and a report will be sent out. They will have a check list and will also check which sheds do not have water butts. It was agreed that August would be a better month for the inspection next year. It would be useful if photographs were taken of any problem plot.

8 Unkempt Plots that are covered in weeds but cannot be re-let as the tenants cannot temporarily manage them – These will form part of the report above. It was noted that a greenhouse blew over on plot 21/22

18/21 Applications for structures

Plum Tree for Plot 99 – This was agreed subject to the following:

1. All fruit tree planting is that it must be grafted onto low growing root stock as Plum trees can grow enormous, especially if they are not pruned properly in the summer.
2. Must be away from a path or boundary
3. Must be planted at the appropriate planting time.

19/21 General upkeep of allotment- keeping hedges cut back, roads etc – There will be clean-up day in October. It was noted that James Tappin had replaced a tap and will send a water meter reading to KT.

20/21 Allotment Finances

1 Budget Update 2021/2022 and Financial Information - KT will email this out.

2. Any items that need to be purchased - No items needed.

3. Rents – These are due on 1st October 2021. Tenancy Agreement for 2021/22 – Changes had been suggested by Gill Bindoff and these were agreed apart from the Bonfire item.

Resolved: That the attached new agreement for 2021/2022 be agreed

21/21 General Issues

1. Maintenance

1. Report on Plant /produce sales or other fundraising ideas – There will be a seedling sale next year. It was noted that there is some fruit that have not been picked and this should be used and not wasted.

22/21 Items for Information

Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

1. Rear gates from Love Lane properties to access the allotments – Situation to be monitored – KT/IH will check into this issue.

23/21 Date of Next Meeting

18th November 2021

24/21 Any Other Business

Plot Fencing - JT reported that the plot holder next to him with the bees on has built and attached his fencing to his fencing subsequently not allowing him any access to his fencing and removing the walkway between the two plots so there is no way to maintain his fencing. He said he understood that there should be a minimum 2ft 6in path to allow a mower between plots. This will be looked at during the inspection.

Trees – GB said that there are some substantial trees that need cutting. KT will look to see if she has a quote for these works and this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30PM