



There will be a Meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee on Monday 28th June 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

Present:

Committee:

Allotment Holders:

George Bruce, Gerald Short, Fergus Lapage, James Tappin, Kirsty Robinson-Ward, Josh Robinson Ward Gill Bindoff, Hilary Bennet.

WPC Representative: Roger Beattie

01/21 Election of Chairman

GS proposed George Bruce and GS seconded. There were no other nominations that wished to stand for this position at this time.

Resolved: That George Bruce be elected as Chairman.

GB stated that he was happy to remain in this position until October and to make the time available for other to learn about the role and responsibilities.

02/21 Election of Vice-Chairman

FL proposed GS and JRW seconded. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Gerald Short be elected as Vice-Chairman.

03/21 Apologies for Absence

Steve Fanning, Matt Reid

04/21 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.

05/21 Approval of Minutes

Resolved: To approve the Minutes from the Meeting on the 29th March 2021 which were received by Council on 13/4/2021 and to be signed by the Chairman.

06/21 Management Issues

1 **Existing Noticeboard** – GS reported that this is being used by allotment holders.

2 **New Noticeboard** – GB said that he has been unwell but will but this up ASAP.

3 **Quarterly newsletter** – GS said that the last quarterly newsletter was sent out and is now working on the next one. He said that after the meetings would be a good time to do it so he can include any items raised. He asked that he is open to suggestions as to its content from members.

Items agreed to Include:

a) Water Butt use article - JRW to find a suitable one.

b) Ill/Unwell please let us know so we can get you help with looking after your allotment.

c) Allotment Rent Increase for 2021/2022

d) Clear Up Day in September but plot holders to be asked to take home unwanted items and recycle things if possible.

e) Plant, Produce and Flower Sale in early September.

4 Plot Availability Update – GB said he has recently re-let 5 plots. There are 3 people still on the waiting list. GB will contact them. GB said that he has been reducing plot sizes as people no longer want very large plots, but this has the advantage of more money being received for the allotments.

5 Extension of Water Pipes / Water Supply – Discussion of Survey Results and how to move forward. GS stated that the survey asked two questions and reported on this:

Q1. *Do you think it would be good to upgrade the water system at the allotment? This will significantly increase water pressure and number of outlets, improve reliability and reduces leaks?*

39 people responded and 87% agreed, 5% did not and 8% did not know.

Q2. *We can't do this without your help! Would you be willing to contribute a one-off payment of £10 towards funding a new water system?*

39 people responded. 77% agreed, 15% did not and 8% did not know.

GS said that there is an overwhelming support for doing this upgrade.

Money that can be used

Earmarked £1860

Plant Sale and Donations from Plot Holders to date £275

An application for a County Councillors grant is being submitted.

As over half the amount needed has been raised (Total Project cost @ the following was agreed:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That as over half the project money has been found by various sources that the Parish Council pay the remainder of money needed to achieve the water upgrade which is desperately needed at the Allotments.

6 The middle pathway to the allotments from Love Lane – paving -GB to update

GB said that he has pruned the hedge/elders which seems to have made the path better. It was noted that this path is now on Land Registry as being owned by WPC

However after discussion it was thought that it would be best to order some gravel and JRW, KRW, GS will look at this area and to let KT know what was agreed. If one tonne of gravel needs be ordered (a skip size) GS to liaise with KT as to when to get this delivered. Volunteers will be needed to help spread it.

7 Biannual Inspection – GB/GS to report. These were conducted and plot holders who had not attended to their plots were contacted. The next inspection will be carried out in September and JRW will be part of the inspection group. It was noted that holders who have structures and no water butts to be identified as they should be using them to save on the water bills. KRW and JRW to start on this exercise. It was noted that a new shed has been put on a plot but has no guttering or water butt. KT will write to the relevant person.

8 Unkempt Plots that are covered in weeds but cannot be re-let as the tenants cannot temporarily manage them.

After the inspection when plot holders were contacted it was noted that some have not been able to attend to their plots due to injury or illness. It was thought that these people should be given some help. It was agreed to send an email on this and add to the newsletter.

9. Applications for structures – There are no application awaiting decisions. All applications that have been received had been responded to.

11. General upkeep of allotment- keeping hedges cut back, roads etc - It was noted that GB does a lot of this work and has done this for the last 30 years and we need to have a list of things done by George. Discussion took place on the allotment side of the hedge between the recreation ground and it was noted that Tom Bindoff has cut this hedge for years and he would now like to give this up. Thanks, were given to him for doing this.

Resolved: That KT gets a quotation for doing this side of the hedge as well as the top and rec side from our contractor.

Rubbish

It was noted that there is a lot of rubbish/unwanted items at the Allotments and it was agreed to have a Clear Up Day in September but plot holders to be asked to take home unwanted items and recycle things if possible.

Path from the school to the allotments – GB reported that this is very overgrown and there is not much space for a vehicle and a person. On the school side this is an OCC responsibility and GB to take photos and send to KT so it can be reported via FixmyStreet.

Leaky Tap – This tap will be replaced by James Tapping

07/21 Allotment Finances

1 Budget Update 2020/2021 and Financial Information – This was sent out with the agenda.

It was noted that unused funds in any year are moved over to earmarked Funds.

Earmarked Funds as at 31/3/2021 £1860

Money Raised by Plant Sale £ 255

Plot Holders Water Contribution £ 20

The budget for 2021/22 has not yet been used.

2. Any items that need to be purchased – GB has recently purchased propane for the allotments. Manure – GS to liaise with the farmer about delivery of manure for allotmenters which he then puts on a field near the allotments. It was noted that if holders want to have it delivered to their plots, they would have to order it for their plot.

3. Rents – These are due on 1st October 2021. To agree annual increase and Tenancy Agreement – Attached to the agenda.

There was much discussion and it was thought that once a water upgrade was in place the increase could perhaps be greater than £1 pa.

Rent Increase

Resolved: That the rents be increased by £1 per plot holder for 2021/2022. Therefore, a basic plot will cost £18 pa.

Tenancy Agreement 2021/2022.

GB stated that she had a few suggested changes and will sent these to KT. These will then be sent to all Members for agreement.

08/21 General Issues

1. Maintenance

1. Report on Plant Sale and future plant/produce sales – KRW said that the Plant Sale had gone very well even without much planning time and promotion and this will be an annual event.

It was thought it would be good to have a produce/flower stall in September possibly at the bench outside the Town Hall and KRW will organise this.

2. Allotment Provision as part new housing developments – FL had asked for information on this.

GB reported that currently WPC have not seen detailed plans but there will be green space on the site opposite Marlbrook and should be given to WPC which could be allotments or an orchard for example. There will be discussion on this, but we are not yet at that stage. There will be consultation and this group would be consulted on it and GB said she will ensure this at the appropriate time.

09/21 Items for Information

Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

1. Rear gates from Love Lane properties to access the allotments – Situation seems to have improved. Continue to monitor it.

10./21 Date of Next Meeting

Scheduled Meeting Date: TBC – A meeting will be held in September. KT to send out dates.

11/21 Any Other Business

Non-Allotment Holder parking by Plot 21 – It was noted that the same car is parking here and blocking access. If it is seen doing this, KT to be given reg number, make and model.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.35PM

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