

Minutes of **Allotment Advisory Committee** held on Monday **21<sup>st</sup> March 2011** in Messingham Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors N Poole (Chair), J R Walker, J England, Mrs J Briggs, T Foster & J Mountain, Mr M Walker, Mr B Ross, Mr P Chapman, Cllr. G Day as spectator and the Clerk.

**317. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Councillor M Proctor.

**318. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None received**

**319. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

The minutes were circulated to all members prior to this meeting and approved as a true record. The minutes were adopted by the Parish Council on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 – Min Ref. 152

**320. MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Min 316a Allotment Road**

It was noted that the Parish Council has approved repairs to a budget of £300 - £400. It was agreed to order the materials for the work to be carried out at the end of April. The appropriate road material was discussed and it was agreed to obtain blast furnace slag although it was noted that this may increase the cost. It was also agreed that the holes in the bottom road should be filled at the same time and it was therefore agreed to seek approval for additional cost at the next Parish Council meeting.

**b) Min 312d Rat Control**

Mr M Walker reported that the rat bait appears to have been very effective. The Clerk commented that only Mr Walker had taken a bait station to date but it was agreed that promotion of them should be by word of mouth only.

Mr M Walker reported that rabbits are currently a bigger problem than rats but it was noted that Mr Duffield is still operating on site.

**321. CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Allotment Newsletter – noted

**322. ALLOTMENT TENANCY TERMINATIONS**

a) No terminations received.

**b) Untidy Allotments**

1. 16c Noted that this has recently been taken over by the tenant of 16b. Agreed to monitor.
2. 11a Warning letter to be sent
3. 11f Tenant has indicated that he is prepared to give up half of the allotment. Agreed to seek confirmation in writing and then allocate the other half to waiting applicant .
4. 42a Warning letter to be sent
5. 42b Warning given in September – agreed to terminate tenancy
6. 42bb Warning given in September – agreed to terminate tenancy
7. 40a Warning letter to be sent

**323. ALLOTMENT TENANCY APPLICATIONS****a) Applications for Approval:**

1. Mr N Crowcroft, 25 The Meadows – Approved.

**b) Allocations:**

1. Mrs N Pitchfork – Half of Allotment 11f when confirmation received from existing tenant (*see min. 322b/3 above*)
2. Mr M Burr – Allotment 42b including 42bb. Noted that this applicant requires at least a half allotment so agreed to revert to 42b.

**324. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) ALLOTMENT EXPENSES – The Clerk reported that the water and hedging & dyking expenses for 2010/11 amount to £522.41. It was noted that there is an increase in water usage due to the increase in tenants and the additional taps provided. A long discussion took place with regard to the proportion of expenses per allotment and it was eventually agreed that smallholdings be charged for hedging & dyking only, and that each tenanted plot be charged for water and hedging & dyking- therefore:

Smallholdings = 30 .5 Garden Allotments = 65

Hedging & Dyking = £184.00 ÷ 95 = £1.94 agreed to charge £2.00 for all plots

Water = £338.41 ÷ 65 = £5.20 agreed to charge £5.50 for garden plots only regardless of size.

- b) BUTTERWICK ROAD HEDGE – Councillor England reported that hedge plants need replacing due to damage caused by a car going through the hedge. The Clerk advised that this is in hand. It was noted that there are damaged hedge plants at ‘Coopers corner’ but it was agreed to leave these.
- c) WOODLAND TREES – It was noted that some of the trees are failing – it was agreed to monitor before considering replacement.
- d) LEAKING TAP – It was reported that a tap in the top section is leaking. It was noted that the handyman is currently on holiday but it will be dealt with on his return.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING. Meeting closed at 8.10pm