

Minutes of the **Allotment Advisory Committee** held on Monday **19th December 2011** in Messingham Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors N Poole (Chair), Mrs J Briggs, M Proctor, J Mountain, J R Walker, & J England, Mr M Walker, Mr P Chapman, Mr B Ross and the Clerk.

340 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Councillor T Foster

341 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None Received

342 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 19th September 2011

The minutes were circulated to all members prior to this meeting and were approved as a true record. The minutes were adopted by the Parish Council on 10th October 2011 – Min Ref: 964/93.

343 MATTERS ARISING

a) Min 339a Rat Bait

Mr M Walker asked if any tenants had requested rat bait and was advised that two had.

b) Min 339b Water Usage

The Clerk reported that the water bills have indicated slightly higher usage from the 'old allotment' water supply but slightly less from the 'new allotment' water supply. Mr M Walker expressed his surprise at these figures as he knew of water being used for hosepipes. It was noted that all taps have a notice attached regarding the correct use of water. It was suggested that a reminder letter be sent with the allotment rent collection notices.

c) Min 336e Dog Fouling

The Clerk apologised for not having ordered the new signs to date.

Mr M Walker reported that he had approached a dog walker who regularly walks a large dog without a lead to remind her of the rules but following verbal abuse at the time there are now large dog waste deposits at the edge of his allotment. He asked that dogs be banned from the allotments but it was noted that enforcement would be extremely difficult. It was agreed that the new signs be bright yellow with instructions that dog waste must be removed and that all dogs must be on leads. It was suggested that a report in the Scunthorpe Telegraph may be helpful. It was agreed to make enquiries with NLC regarding the rules for dogs on allotment land.

It was noted that the dog waste bin on West View has been removed by NLC temporarily due to a damaged post.

d) Min 336b/2 & Min 338 Allotment 42aa

The Clerk reported that she advised Mrs Goodyear of termination of tenancy but had received no response. The allotment had therefore been allocated to Mr Burr as requested.

e) Min 336c Allotment 51a

The Clerk reported that Mr Crowcroft had accepted tenancy of Allotment 51a but that Mr Eaton had declined Allotment 51aa due to a change in personal circumstances. Allotment 51aa had therefore been allocated to new applicant Mr Richard Cross – this was approved.

f) Min 336d Allotments 2b & 4b

The Clerk reported that Councillor Foster had spoken to Mr Ancliffe who has expressed his desire and commitment to retain both allotments. Agreed to monitor.

344 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) RHS Growing Communities newsletter. Noted
- b) Anglian Water – Plumbing Compliance Inspection. An inspection carried out on 15th December has indicated that all hose union taps must have back flow protection valves fitted. It was noted that valves can be fitted to the underground pipes rather than individual stand pipes. Agreed to refer to the handyman for action.
- c) Richard Cross – Allotment 51aa – shed request. Approved

345 TENANCY TERMINATIONS

- a) Allotment 11g – Mr Grice
- b) Allotment 49a – Mrs Singh
- c) Allotment 27a (half only) – Mr Camlin
- d) It was noted that Allotment 58 may be relinquished by Mr Roddis and it was agreed that if it becomes available it should not be re-let but transferred to Mr Ross.

346 TENANCY APPLICATIONS

- a) Richard Cross, 2 High Street. APPROVED. Allocated Allotment 51aa *see Min 343e above*.
- b) David Martin, 4 Orchard Close. APPROVED. Allocated Allotment 11g
- c) Andy Lane, 20 Trentholme Drive. APPROVED. Allocated Allotment 49a

It was noted that there are no applicants on the waiting list and that the half of 27a will become vacant from 1st January 2012.

It was also noted that Mr Page of 38b is quite ill and requires help to maintain his allotment or alternatively a new tenant.

347 ALLOTMENT INSPECTION REPORT

- a) Allotment 49aa – the Clerk reported that she had sent an untidy notice to Mrs Poole but had received no reply. Agreed to monitor for time being.
- b) Allotment 11a (Wallis) – untidy notice to be sent.
- c) Allotment 16a (Oates) – noted that the allotment is tidy but that the tenant has not been seen for some time.
- d) Mr Ross complained that new sheds are not being erected in line with existing sheds since permission had been given to Mr Wombell of 46a for deviation. It was noted that splitting the allotments had created some difficulties in keeping the sheds aligned.

348 OTHER BUSINESS

- a) ANNUAL ALLOTMENT TENANTS MEETING
The Chairman outlined a proposal for an annual allotment tenants meeting to be held on the day of the annual rent collection in April – this could be used for the election of representatives to the Advisory Committee and for the discussion of issues or complaints. The proposal was approved and it was agreed to hold the first meeting on Thursday 5th April 2012 at 6.30pm. It was also agreed that items for the agenda should be pre-notified.
- b) ALLOTMENT ROAD
Mr M Walker commented that work on the road had been well done and that tenants are abiding by the new traffic direction rules.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING