

Minutes of **Allotment Advisory Committee** held on Monday 16th September 2013 in Messingham Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Councillors N Poole (Chair), J R Walker, M Proctor, T Foster and Mrs J Briggs; Mr B Ross, Mr M Walker and Mr M May; and the Clerk.

409. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Councillors J England and J Mountain; and Mr P Chapman.

410. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None Received

411. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 17th June 2013

The minutes were circulated to all non-council members prior to the start of the meeting and time given to read them. The Clerk apologised for the oversight of not delivering them with the agendas. They were agreed to be a true record. *Approved and adopted by the Parish Council minute ref. 1082/40*

412. MATTERS ARISING

a) Min 408a Allotment Road

Response received from the Scouts advising that the slag under the container had already been removed and was therefore not available to use for the road repairs. It was noted that the holes have now been filled by the tenants.

b) Min 408c Parish Council Website

The Clerk reported that the allotment application form and rules are now available to download from the Parish Council website.

413. CORRESPONDENCE

RHS newsletters. Noted.

414. ALLOTMENT TENANCY TERMINATIONS – None

415. ALLOTMENT TENANCY APPLICATIONS

a) Ms Catherine Thompson-Flint, 2 Acacia Way – APPROVED – Allotment 51aa allocated between meetings as previously agreed

b) Mr T Kendall, 17 Leaburn Road – APPROVED – Allotment 37a allocated between meetings as previously agreed

c) Mr K Brumby, 4 Middleton Close – APPROVED

d) Mr S Pendleton, 38a High Street – APPROVED

416. ALLOTMENTS INSPECTION REPORT

A review of the previously reported allotments were as follows

a) 17a – tidy but not fully cultivated. To be monitored

b) 6b – OK

c) 42aa/42b – no activity despite two letters. Agreed to terminate the tenancy. It was noted that a poly tunnel is on 42aa which needs to be removed. It was suggested that the tenant of 42a may be interested in 42aa so it was agreed to ask him before making the allocation to Mr S Pendleton.

d) 44a – send reminder letter

e) 27aa – send reminder letter

f) 27b – send reminder letter

The following allotments were also reported as being in an unsatisfactory condition:

g) 11d – send untidy notice letter

h) 54a – send final warning letter

- i) 51a – noted that the new tenant has not started work to date – it was also commented that the condition of the allotment is poor and that half of 52a currently relinquished by Mr Ross would be easier to manage - agreed to establish with tenant when she is to start work and to offer the alternative allotment.
- j) 18a – noted that the tenant is currently injured but agreed to send untidy notice letter.

417. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) SURPLUS PRODUCE – The Clerk reported that she had received an enquiry from Mrs S Jackson of the Pink Pig, Holme regarding the sale of tenants' surplus produce in return for vouchers to spend at the Pink Pig. Mr M Walker advised that this is an illegal practice for all but private allotment associations. It was agreed to advise Mrs Jackson of this fact.
- b) BEST KEPT ALLOTMENT COMPETITION – the Clerk reported the winners as follows:
1st – 42a Mr P Bratton; 2nd – 45a Mr L Jaques; 3rd – 48a Mr D Peachey
Councillor Foster asked why there wasn't a Best Newcomer/Most Improved prize – Mr M Walker explained that this had been presented by the former Allotment Association in the past. It was agreed to ask the Parish Council to consider resurrecting this prize to encourage new tenants.

For information the winners of the Best Kept Garden competition were as follows:
1st – 27a Well Street; 2nd – 12 East Green; 3rd = 50 Well Street and 8 West Green.
- c) ALLOTMENT NUMBERING – it was agreed that allotments 16a – 19 require new numbers. It was also agreed that a new rule should be made for tenants to maintain identification of the their allotment.
- d) ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVES – it was agreed that the contact details for the allotment representatives be given to all new tenants and a site visit be made with one them before work commences on an allotment.
- e) SPEEDING – Noted that one particular tenant is travelling at excessive speed on the allotment. Clerk to contact.
- f) WATER TESTING – The Clerk advised that water testing is to be carried out on behalf of Anglian Water.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING