

Minutes of **Allotment Advisory Committee** held on Monday 16th June 2014 in Messingham Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors J Walker, Mrs J Briggs & T Foster; Mr M Walker, Mr P Chapman, Mr B Ross and the Clerk.

446. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Councillor J Walker was elected to take the chair for this meeting.

447. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Councillors N Poole, J McKellar Main, M Proctor and J England.

448. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None received

449. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 28th April 2014

The minutes were circulated to all members prior to this meeting. They were agreed to be a true record. Adopted by Parish Council on 12th May 2014 – Min 1128/11.

450. MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Min 440a/2 Allotment 52a** – No response from tenant
- b) **Min 440a/23 Allotment 52aa** – Tenant paid arrears
- c) **Min 440a/4 Allotment 11d** – No response from tenant
- d) **Min 440a/6 Allotment 44a** – No response from tenant
- e) **Min 441a Garden Representative Vacancy** - Notice done – P Chapman agreed to put up notice.
- f) **Min 441b Silent Alarm System** – M Walker reported that Mr Tuplin has installed a trial system which appears to be working satisfactorily. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council were unable to consider this further until more information and a price per unit has been received. It was noted that a call to the police should be on the 101 number rather than 999 as a break in would not be constituted as an emergency. It was agreed that tenants should be responsible for the cost of an alarm system but that the Parish Council may consider bulk purchase, dependent on interest, to make them cost less per unit.
- g) **Min 445a Rent Arrears** - The Clerk reported that all arrears from the rent collection date had now been paid.
- h) **Min 445b Grass Cutting** – Barry Ross was asked to cut the grass again.
- i) **Min 445e Allotment 35a** – Clerk reported that the tenant had confirmed that the sheets in question are a cement product and not asbestos.

451. ALLOTMENT TENANCY TERMINATIONS

Allotment 52aa – Confirmation in writing from Mrs Thompson-Flint.

452. ALLOTMENT TENANCY APPLICATIONS

- a) Mr N Morgan, 40 Brigg Road – APPROVED. Noted that Mr Morgan has requested Allotment 11d – this was also approved and it was agreed that help to clear the plot be given if needed.
- b) Mr T McFeeley, 69 Kealholme Road – APPROVED. Agreed to allocate Allotment 44aa and help clear the plot if needed.

453. ALLOTMENTS INSPECTION REPORT

The following allotments were considered :

- a) Allotment 52a – Noted that the plot has been left with carpets, water butt, compost tub, worktop & vice etc. It was agreed to send another letter asking for the arrears to be paid and giving 21 days to clear the site, advising that a further bill will be issued for clearance costs if not. Mr B Ross advised that he will rotovate the plot.
- b) Allotment 51a – Plot overgrown with weeds with no indication of activity. Agreed to send first warning letter.
- c) Allotment 51aa – Carpets left on site to suppress weed growth but need removing by previous tenant if possible.
- d) Allotment 42b – Mr M Walker agreed to tidy this plot to make it suitable for car parking. It was noted that a shed is available for a tenant if required.
- e) Woodland Area – Mr B Ross agreed to cut the grass and the handyman to be tasked with strimming round the trees and boundary.
- f) Access Off West View – Grass needs cutting back. Noted that Mr Ross had done this but that it needed doing again.

454. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Rules Review
 1. Rule 14 *Any tenant leaving an allotment and leaving same in an unsatisfactory condition will be liable for such sum for restoring it to a satisfactory condition, as the Parish Council shall determine.* It was suggested that a refundable deposit should be charged – it was agreed to take advice on this matter. The Clerk reported that she had looked at a number of other Allotment contracts from other authorities and suggested that the wording of this rule should be revised for approval at the next meeting – Agreed.
 2. Rule 22 *The tenant shall keep and maintain the land clean and clear of weeds and fully cultivate the land to the Parish Council's satisfaction.* The use of carpets as a weed suppressant was discussed but it was noted that it is only when they are left after the allotment is vacated that it is a real issue.
- b) Rabbit Activity – Clerk agreed to contact Dorian Duffield to confirm that he is continuing to control the rabbits. It was suggested contacting Richard Benson as an alternative.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING. Meeting closed at 8.30pm