

Minutes of the **Allotment Advisory Committee** held on Monday **19th January 2015** in Messingham Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors J McKellar Main (Chair), J England, J R Walker, M Proctor, T Foster & Mrs J Briggs; Mr P Chapman, Mr B Ross, Mr M Walker and the Clerk.

464. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Councillor N Poole.

465. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None received

466. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 15th September 2014

The minutes were circulated to all members prior to this meeting. They were agreed to be a true record. Adopted by the Parish Council on 13th October 2014 – Min 1151/76.

467. MATTERS ARISING

a) Min 458c Allotment 44a

Noted that the tyres have been removed from the plot following a letter to Mr Ingledew but that there is still a carpet and quantity of broken slabs. It was agreed to take no further action with regard to the expenses arrears.

b) Min 458b Allotment 11d

The Clerk reported that no response had been received from Ms Elliot with regard to the expenses arrears. It was agreed to take no further action. It was noted that the new tenants have been assisted by Ms Elliot and her partner to tidy the allotment.

c) Min 459d Alarm Systems

It was noted that some tenants had been contacted by Safer Neighbourhoods to attend the 'allotment security event'. Councillor McKellar Main agreed to find out if all allotment holders had been contacted.

d) Min 458e Rabbit Activity

Noted that rabbit activity is still a problem. It was agreed that Richard Benson be contacted to take over the rabbit control from Mr Duffield who is known not to live locally any longer.

e) Min 463d Criminal Damage

Noted that recent damage done to shed windows and vegetables, albeit probably by children, is still considered to be criminal damage and should always be reported to the police.

468. CORRESPONDENCE – None

469. TENANCY TERMINATIONS

Allotment 44aa – McFeeley.

470. TENANCY APPLICATIONS

a) Mr & Mrs Atkin, 2a Well Street. APPROVED between meetings by the Parish Council and Allotment 44aa allocated.

b) Emma Botfield, 83 High Street. Specific request for a plot suitable for keeping laying hens. APPROVED. It was noted that the tenant of 40a/b, S Barley, has indicated that he wishes to terminate his tenancy due to work commitments, and this allotment is already used for hens it would be the logical plot for Ms Botfield. Agreed to contact Mr Barley to confirm the termination of his tenancy before allocating to Ms Botfield.

471. ALLOTMENT INSPECTION REPORT**a) Previously reported:**

1. 17a – satisfactory – no further action
2. 11e – no activity noted – further letter to be sent
3. 11f – no activity noted – further letter to be sent
4. 51a – no activity noted – untidy notice to be sent

b) Allotments to be considered:

1. 27d – untidy notice to be sent
2. 18a – untidy notice to be sent.

472. OTHER BUSINESS

- a)** DOG FOULING reported to be an ongoing problem particularly with dog walkers using the allotments at dusk when tenants are not around.
- b)** GENERAL POOR STATE OF ALLOTMENTS compared to allotment sites in other areas was commented on by M Walker. It was agreed that only a minority of the allotments are being kept in a proper manner. It was suggested that new tenants should allocated an allotment on a twelve month probationary period initially, with regular monitoring to take place – this was agreed. It was also suggested that inspections should be carried out in May and October and that all tenants should be advised by letter when the rent notices are sent out – this was also agreed.
- c)** RAT ACTIVITY reported in the top section of the allotment site. It was noted that very few tenants have taken up the offer of free rat bait.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING. Meeting closed at 8.15pm