

Minutes of the **Allotment Advisory Committee** held on Monday **15th June 2015** in Messingham Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

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

481. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Councillors N Poole, T Foster and J England.

482. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None received

483. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 16th March 2015

The minutes were circulated to all members prior to this meeting and were accepted as a true record. The minutes were approved and adopted by the Parish Council on 13th April 2015 Min. Ref: 1180/152.

484. MATTERS ARISING

a) Min 476a Rabbit Control

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Richard Benson who had agreed to undertake the rabbit control but that it would be preferable to shoot them. Advice received from ERNLLCA in 1999, in respect of shooting rights, was noted, but it was agreed that provided shooting was carried out away from the garden allotments and at quiet times, it would be acceptable. Mr Benson to be asked to provide copies of his firearms certificate, if appropriate, and insurance cover. Councillor McKellar Main commented that in the event of an organised shoot on the land the police would need to be informed. Clerk to compile a Risk Assessment.

b) Min 480b Road Repairs

Mr Walker commented that the road repairs had only just been carried out despite being reported in March. It was noted that Mr Ross had been unable to carry out the work sooner due to work commitments.

485. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Mr M Walker – letter of resignation from the Allotment Advisory Committee to take effect from the next full Council meeting. It was noted that Mr Walker has served on the committee for 44 years, latterly as the Parish Council representative. Mr Walker was thanked for his many years of service.

b) RHS Newsletter. Noted

486. ALLOTMENT TENANCY TERMINATIONS

a) Allotment 38B - Mr Welton. Mr Walker commented that this allotment should have been maintained once vacated to preserve its good condition and blamed poor management by the Parish Council for its current overgrown state. It was noted that Mr Chapman had been aware of Mr Welton's termination but that there had been a breakdown in communication.

b) Allotment 18a – Mrs Levitt. Terminated as per Min 479e

c) Allotment 27d – Mr Mettam. Terminated following warning letter and failure to respond.

d) Allotments 40a/40b – Mr Barley. Terminated from 30th June 2015 due to work commitments.

487. ALLOTMENT TENANCY APPLICATIONS – None

488. ALLOTMENTS INSPECTION REPORT

The following allotments were noted in the inspection carried out by Mr Walker and Mr Chapman:

- a) 2b – partly overgrown – monitor
- b) 3a – unsatisfactory – warning letter to be issued
- c) 4b – partly overgrown – monitor
- d) 11c – overgrown and no recent activity from this new tenant. Warning letter to be issued.
- e) 11d – monitor
- f) 11f – despite previous warnings no activity to date. Tenancy to be terminated.
- g) 18a – the half of this plot vacated by Mrs Levitt is overgrown – to be tidied
- h) 27d – unoccupied and overgrown – to be tidied
- i) 35a – tidy but to be monitored
- j) 38b – unoccupied and overgrown - to be tidied
- k) 44a – no recent activity - correspondence noted from Mr Atkin. Monitor
- l) 51a – monitor

Discussion followed about the maintenance of vacant allotments. It was noted that Mr Ross is keeping Allotments 51 – 53 tidy but that he cannot get on the smaller plots with his machinery until they are cleared of raised beds etc. It was agreed to ask the parish council handyman in the first instance to trim allotments 18a, 27d and 38b, and thereafter determine the amount of work required to keep them tidy. It was suggested that if the handyman is unable to carry out the strimming then local contractors be contacted – agreed.

489. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) ALLOTMENT ROAD (Butterwick Road entrance) – Mr Walker reported that the centre of the road needs levelling to prevent damage to vehicles. It was agreed that a machine and driver would be needed and the spoil removing. Agreed to get a price for this work before the next parish council meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING