

Minutes of the **Allotment Advisory Committee** held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 in Messingham Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors J McKellar Main (Chair) Mrs J Briggs, T Foster, M Proctor, Mrs B Todd; Mr P Chapman, Mr B Ross, Mr J Walker.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Tracey Black, Parish Clerk

**527. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Councillor N Pool, J England

**528. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None declared**

**529. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

The minutes were circulated to all members prior to this meeting and agreed to be a true record. The minutes were adopted by the Parish Council on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 Min. Ref. 1277/99

**530. CLERKS REPORT**

**To receive the Clerks report providing information on recent issues and work completed.**

**a) Min 521a Security/Gate**

Work is now complete at the Butterwick Road entrance; new hanging pedestrian gate, lock, signs, and path has been laid.

A similar arrangement had been suggested at the last meeting for the West View entrance.

Following discussions it was proposed and agreed to re-set the post of the existing gate and secure with a combination lock. Clerk to contact Mr Richard Benson regarding the work, and to purchase a combination lock.

**b) Min 526a Rabbit Control**

The clerk report she had spoken to Mr Richard Benson regarding completion of the Risk Assessment for use of a firearm on the Allotments. Mr Benson decided the precautions involved would be too time consuming. The committee agreed these controls were necessary. It was agreed to speak to Mr Benson regarding the possibility of controlling the situation by ferreting.

**c) Metal detecting –** the clerk advised a request had been received by the Parish Council for metal detecting on the small holding land farmed by Mr B Ross. This had been agreed by the Council and Mr Ross. Noted for information.

**d) Burglary –** reported at full council- for information only-there had been a theft of tools reported from the shed on Allotment 37B last December. The tenant had notified the police. Mr Chapman advised there had been a theft from Allotment 38B. Noted

**e) Rat Bait –** the clerk advised that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017, new regulations were being introduced regarding the purchase of rat bait. Any stocks would need to be used before that date. Future purchase would only be available in small amounts.

**531. ALLOTMENT TENANCY TERMINATIONS**

**To receive and consider allotment tenancy terminations**

a) Allotment 57a – Mr T Parker. Retirement.

b) Allotment 35b – Mr M Walker. Ill health.

c) Allotment 2a – Mr D Spencer. Not renewing in April.

d) Allotment 11a – Mr S Cox. Relinquishing one allotment.

It was proposed and agreed to advertise the availability of allotments in the next parish magazine.

**532. ALLOTMENT TENANCY APPLICATIONS****To receive and consider allotment tenancy applications**

- a) Mr T Scruton – 14 Eastfield Road. APPROVED. Allotment 11a was suggested. Visit to be arranged for Mr Scruton as requested.
- b) Mr M May (Allotment 37b) - request to take over 35b. APPROVED.

**533. ALLOTMENT INSPECTION REPORT****To receive the allotment inspection report and agree any necessary actions**

The following allotments were noted in the inspection carried out by Mr P Chapman;

- a) Allotment 2B - it was noted that a letter had been sent in October to Mr. Antcliff, causing upset to his daughter. Mr Antcliff is 91 years old and visits most days. An apology had been sent.
- b) Allotment 54a – M Clayton, overgrown – no response following warning letter in September, **termination letter** to be sent recorded delivery, advising clearing costs will be passed on.
- c) Area around Allotment shed requires strimming to keep tidy – Handyman to be asked to tidy.

**534. FINANCES****To consider the expenses summary and agree any necessary actions**

- a) The clerk reported the expenses for 2016/17 – hedging and dyking £263.50 and water £258.69. The expenses per tenant were proposed and agreed – Garden tenants £9.50; Small holding plots £3.50.

**b) To receive the budget forecast and consider review of rent payments**

The clerk made available an Income/expenses Summary for the previous five years.

***Councillors T Foster, M Proctor, Mr B Ross, Mr P Chapman declared an interest as allotment holders, and took no part in the voting.***

It was proposed and resolved to increase the Allotment rents from 1 April 2018; Gardens 1/8<sup>th</sup> acre to £10 and Smallholdings rents to £12.

**c) To agree rent collection date**

April 5<sup>th</sup> was suggested - It was agreed the clerk would arrange a permissible and agreeable date at the beginning of April. To be held in Messingham Village Hall.

**535. CORRESPONDENCE****a) To consider email received from NLC regarding Allotment Watch**

Email received from Safer Neighbourhoods advising of setting up of Allotment Watch. Request for details of allotment holders, to enable contact with details and invitation to join. It was proposed to reply and request that the letter and any information be sent to the clerk, who would forward to allotment holders. Clerk to enquire if Safe Neighbourhoods would be collecting the CCTV and battery as no longer used.

- b) RHS magazine.

**536. ANY OTHER MATTERS**

- a) **Gypsum spreading** - Complaint received from spreading of Gypsum on small holdings, causing drift onto some of the allotments and road.

***Mr B Ross left the meeting at 8.10pm prior to discussions.***

There was concern by Mr P Chapman that this would be detrimental to organic allotments. Subsequent rains washed the soil conditioner into the soil. No further action taken.

- b) **Allotment Road** – Mr Chapman raised concerns regarding the condition of the allotment road, and request for key for the bottom gate. Debate followed regarding the condition of the road. It was agreed that the committee members visit the allotments to evaluate the road condition, and refer to full council. Request for key declined after discussion.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING. Meeting closed 8:24pm.