

MINUTE 16T

A meeting of the Allotment Management Committee was held on the 18th day of APRIL 2016 at the Methodist Chapel, commencing 7.00pm

COMMITTEE PRESENT - Mr Storey (Chair), Mrs Batten, Mrs Bane, Mr Cock and Mr Cooper.
Also present 9 tenants.

APOLOGIES - No apologies were received .

MINUTES of the last meeting were taken as read, agreed & duly signed.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **Vermin Control** – Mr Storey explained that the vermin control contract has been awarded to Mr John Rolph of J&M Vermin Control. Mr Storey has been up to the allotments and found little evidence of vermin and asked if the tenants felt there had been an improvement. Mr Harris and Mr Studd said the situation had greatly improved. Mr Storey thanked Mr Rolph who was present for his services.
2. **Allotment 0** – It was felt this was in need of a cut and Mr Storey said that if any tenants wished to undertake this then to inform the Clerk. Mr Cole said that the allotment was particularly rough in the corner and asked if it could be grounded out. Mr Lilley and Mr Cock said that between them they would rotovate and either level or grade it.
3. **Dogs on Allotments** – Mr Cock has had two signs made and will erect them later this week. Dog walkers have been spotted on Munsons Lane side of the allotments and one allotment holder had found some dog mess on his allotment. The issue is that no-one knows who Munsons Lane belongs to. A map dated 1835 shows it as a right of way. Mr Storey stated that it does not belong to the Parish Council. Mr Cock said it is classed as an 'Unadopted Road'. Mr Studd said a lot of people let their dogs off the lead and Mr Storey encouraged anyone who spotted this happening to report it to the Clerk and not take the matter into their own hands.
4. **Knotweed** – Mr Cock had sprayed the knotweed but said it is too early to say if this had been effective as nothing is shooting through yet. There is no fresh growth at present but Mr Cock will keep an eye on this and asked the tenants to do so as well.
5. **Allotment Husbandry** – A request was put forward for allotment 5A to be sprayed as purple nettles are now present. Mr Cock said the correct chemical needs to be applied at the correct time so he will take a look.
6. **Entrance to Allotments** – Mr Storey has spoken with Highways who were not forthcoming so he will make further enquiries. Mr Cole said this is particularly dangerous when turning right and that also the road could do with leveling as at present, he currently scrapes the bottom of his car when pulling out
7. At present, plots 1, 4, 8 and 5A are empty and previous tenants have been asked to clear their sites as there is still Harris fencing, a chicken run and shed on plot 8. Mr Cooper proposed a letter be sent to the tenant giving 10 days notice to clear the site or the Parish Council will do so with all costs incurred to the tenant. Mr Cock seconded, all in favour. If nothing is done, Mr Rolph offered to clear the site free of charge and Mr Lilley offered to spray with Round-Up and then rotovate.

P.T.O.

MINUTE 17T

MATTERS ARISING CONT.

Mr Rolph has already cleared some items from Plot 5A and Mr Cock offered to assist him with everything else. Plots 4 and 8 also need to be sprayed and rotovated. Mr Lilley said he would only charge for his diesel used. Mrs Batten proposed, Mr Cock seconded, all in favour. Mr Storey thanked Mr Rolph and Mr Lilley and will liaise with Mr Lilley as to when spraying can be done. Mr Cock suggested a deposit be taken from all future tenants in light of people not clearing up. Mr Storey said this is something to be considered. The Clerk has had one enquiry from a potential tenant but will advertise vacancies again on the Parish notice board and in the Parish Magazine.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. Walkabout – It was suggested that more walkabouts are required. It was felt the June walkabout is too late and that an earlier one is necessary so that if there are any issues, these can be dealt with immediately and so that any spraying can be done if required. The committee agreed and said that next year the first walkabout would take place in March.

9. Spokesperson – Mrs Bane suggested that the tenants have a spokesperson, someone to communicate regularly with the Committee about issues as they arise so that the Committee can act sooner. Mr Storey put this to the tenants and Mr Rolph offered to take up this position but the tenants felt that it would be best left as it was at present.

Meeting declared closed 7.50 pm
