

MINUTE 20T

A meeting of the Allotment Management Committee and the Garden Allotment Tenants was held on the 21st day of NOVEMBER 2017 at the Methodist Chapel, commencing 7.30 pm

COMMITTEE PRESENT - Mr Storey, Mrs Bane, Mrs Batten, Mr Cock and Mr Cooper. Also present 7 tenants.

APOLOGIES - None received.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. **Vermin Control** – All tenants present felt this situation was under control and that Mr Rolph was doing a great job as no vermin had been seen for a long time.
2. **Dogs on Allotments** – Mr Cole said he had seen a black Labrador running loose on several occasions. Mr Storey asked tenants to keep an eye out for this dog and report any occurrences to him.
3. **Knotweed** – Mr Cock said he had sprayed this a few times and it was being kept under control.
4. **Allotment Husbandry** – Mr Edwards queried what was meant by allotment husbandry. Mr Storey explained and Mr Edwards then questioned whether it was fair to compare more regularly attended allotments to those belonging to tenants who were unable to spend as much time on them. Mr Storey said that when taking on an allotment, tenants are aware of the contract and make the decision to take them on. The question was raised as to who was responsible for the large grassed area to the left as you come in at the Hythe Road entrance. Mr Storey said this was not rented at present and may be offered to the school.
5. **Entrance to Allotments** – The Clerk had received an email from Mr Glasscock expressing concern at the state of the entrance. Mr Cole asked if it could be scraped back. Mr Storey asked Mr Cock if he would be willing to undertake this but Mr Cock said that in light of recent happenings, he would not be prepared to carry out this work voluntarily. Mrs Batten said the Parish Council is under no obligation to maintain the roadway and only has to provide an entrance to the allotments, not access for vehicles. Mr Storey said he would bring the matter up at the next Parish Council meeting.
6. **Vacant Allotments** – Clerk reported that one whole plot and one half plot are vacant at present.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. **Fruit Trees** – Mr Cole asked when the fruit trees were going to be moved to the correct allotment as it is now the correct time of year for this. Clerk to contact Mrs Morris.
8. **Walkabouts** – Mr Storey advised everyone that the Allotment Committee now carry out individual monthly inspections starting Spring-time in order to keep on top of any that are not being kept in accordance with the contract. The Clerk read out an email from Mrs Garland requesting that tenants be present at the allotment inspection. Mr Storey said this was a good idea and as the Committee were also in favour, asked tenants to advise the Clerk of their email addresses so she can notify everyone of the annual allotment inspection in June.

P.T.O.

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9. New Tenancy Agreement – Mr Storey advised that a new tenancy agreement would be coming into force October 2018 which could be signed at Rent Night. The Clerk said that if anyone requested a copy prior to this or wished to sign the new agreement before October 2018 then they should contact her.

10. Maize – Mr Storey put forward a request by a farm tenant asking if they could grow maize on the farm allotments in future. Mr Cock said this could be detrimental to the environment and Mr Cooper said that maize leaves an awful mess on the roads. This in turn would cause the Parish Council issues and Mr Cock said that a complaint had been received at a recent Parish Council meeting regarding the mess on Lodge Road. Mr Harris said maize also attracts rats. Mr Storey added that a maize root is almost the size of a football and could cause problems for the next tenant. However, he said he would raise this issue at the next Parish Council meeting.

Meeting declared closed 8.10 pm
