

MINUTE 27T

A meeting of the Allotment Management Committee and the Garden Allotment Tenants was held on the 25th day of NOVEMBER 2019 at the Royal British Legion, commencing 7.30 pm

COMMITTEE PRESENT - Mr Storey, Mr Cock, Mr Rayner, Mrs Arnold and Mr Lambert. Also present 8 tenants.

APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from Mrs Scarff.

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.
2. **Knotweed** – Mr Cock said he has continued to treat this three times during the Summer and said it is suppressed and has not encroached any further.
3. **Allotment Husbandry** – Mr Storey said the Headteacher of the Primary School did not wish to take up the offer of an allotment plot.
4. **Entrance to Allotments** – Mr Cole said he thought the entrance still needed levelling. Mr Storey said the Allotment Committee will look into this.
5. **Vacant Allotments** – Clerk said three full plots and six half plots are vacant.
6. **Walkabouts (Water Supply)** – Mr Storey said he had raised this issue at the Parish Council meeting. The Chairman had looked into costs and reported that it would cost approx. £12,000 to put in a water supply. Mr Storey said that as most tenants felt this was not a significant issue, this was not sustainable at the present time.
7. **Break-ins** – Following the recent shed break-ins which occurred during the evening of Monday 28th October, Mr Cole said he had been advised that the matter had been passed to the Local Beat Officer (PC David Funnel) who would be in contact with the Clerk. Clerk said she had not been contacted. Mr Storey stressed that tenants should not keep valuables at the allotments. Mrs Garland asked if the idea of a container had been considered any further. Mr Storey felt that if someone wished to break in then they would break into a container. He said the cost of an average container is £2000. Mrs Garland asked if items stored within it would be insured under the Parish Council's insurance. Clerk to make enquiries.
8. **Allotment Security** – Mr Cole suggested having a barrier across the entrances to the allotments. Mr Edwards asked if a chain gate could be installed. Mr Fenn stated, as he had previously, that safety would need to be considered for people to pull in far enough off the road. Mr Edwards suggested vehicles could pull off on the opposite side of the road to unlock the barrier before driving on to the allotments. Committee will look into chain link barriers and raise this matter at the next Parish Council meeting.
9. **Unauthorised People on Allotment** – Mr Edwards said only tenant holders are permitted on the allotments yet he regularly sees other people there. Mr Storey asked for everyone to be vigilant and to report trespassers to the Committee. Mr Rayner said Norfolk Police advised replacing all perimeter fences/hedges with barbed wire so that trespassers could be easily spotted. Mr Lambert said this was not environmentally-friendly as hedges are a habitat for wildlife and should not be removed.

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

10. Vermin Control – Costs vs Alternative Measures – This was raised by Mr Edwards who thought that as the vermin is now under control, this money could be better spent on something else, for example entrance barriers. Miss Smith said she wouldn't want to see the vermin not being regularly controlled as it would get out of hand again. Mr Storey said that once vermin is under control, it should be kept that way and therefore believed this money was well spent. He felt the vermin control was as good as he'd ever known it. Mr Rolph, the pest controller, said that the boxes are baited once a month and those surrounding the allotments are baited twice a month. He said he makes no profit from this and sometimes has to bait certain areas heavier than this. Mrs Garland thanked Mr Rolph on behalf of the allotment holders for this gesture.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. Revenue – Mr Edwards asked how much the Farm Allotments brought in financially. Clerk to advise at the next meeting. Mr Lambert said this money is not ring-fenced for the allotments and that farm allotment land was bought with parishioners' money. Mr Storey said that all money raised from farm allotment land was spent in the proper and correct manner.

12. Thank You – Mr Storey thanked the tenants, on behalf of the Committee, for the hard work they carry out to keep their allotments in order.

Meeting declared closed 8.00 pm