

MINUTE 29T

A meeting of the Allotment Management Committee and the Garden Allotment Tenants was held virtually via the Zoom platform on Thursday the 22nd day of APRIL 2021 – commencing 7.00 pm

COMMITTEE PRESENT - Mr Storey (Chairman), Mrs Arnold, Mr Lambert and Mr Rayner.
Also present 5 tenants.

APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from Mr Cock and Mrs Garland.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. **Vermin Control** – No issues.
2. **Knotweed** – Mr Cock advised the Clerk that he has continued to treat this, it is suppressed and has not encroached any further.
3. **Entrance to Allotments** – The entrance has been scraped back and levelled out by D M Carpentry & Building Services at a cost of £60. Mr Rolph had bought some stone in and levelled the track out. Mr Irving said there was a severe dip in the right-hand corner of the allotments and Mr Storey said he would take a look.
4. **Water Supply** – Mr Storey said due to the climate changing, water supply has become an increasing problem. Mr Irving said he had spoken to a company about digging a well and they had quoted approx. £4000 for this work. This was for a hand-pumped well with a bore hole of 15m deep. Mr Lambert said most bore holes were much deeper than this. Mr Rayner said he and Mr Lambert had looked into having a water trough serving allotments by pipes and this cost was about £250. Tenants could also fill up water carriers from it. Anglian Water had quoted £1000 to connect the water. Mr Storey said these two options could be discussed by the Allotment Management Committee and a decision put to the Parish Council.
5. **Break-ins** – Clerk enquired as to whether tenants' items stored within a container would be covered by the Parish Council's insurance and was informed that insurance would not cover tools as contents should they break or be stolen. This is because the Parish Council do not possess what is called an "insurable interest" over the tools. They are the property of the allotment users and therefore would need to be insured by them for these situations.
6. **Allotment Security** – Following the meeting, it was suggested that all tenants should be consulted as to their thoughts on installing some form of barrier at the allotment entrance. Mr Storey said that at the Allotment Management Committee meeting held in September 2020, he asked the Clerk for tenants' responses and the Clerk said 4 tenants were in favour and 7 against. It was therefore decided not to pursue this matter further.
7. **Revenue** – Following Mr Edwards enquiry, Clerk reported year ending 31st March 2021 financial figures: Income from farm and garden rents totalled £5290.84, Outgoings totalled £1207.91 (vermin control £550, EA drainage cost £37.91, hedge cutting £420 and levelling work £200) leaving a balance of income over expenditure of £4082.93. Mr Storey said the allotments are a very valuable asset and the village is fortunate to have such a large amount of good farming land. The income is spent in to the correct and proper manner.
8. **Planting of New Trees** – Mr Storey said planting trees along allotment hedges had been brought up at Parish Council level and he was in favour of planting more trees. He felt trees on the

MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

allotments near the road would in time grow to a size where they would become problematic. It had also been mentioned that a hedgerow could be planted around the boundary of the allotments which would be good for wildlife and security. Mr Storey went on to thank Miss Pollard and Mr Fenn for kindly supplying and planting a small area of hedgerow. Mr Irving felt the gap in the hedgerow behind his allotment leaves his plot relatively exposed and he had seen cars cutting through to the allotments here and Mr Cole said he had seen a number of non-allotment holders use this to access the allotments. Mr Fenn said he would be in favour of planting a replacement hedge there. Mr Lambert said there was a knotweed problem within this gap and the previous hedge had to be destroyed to get rid of it and that Mr Cock ought to be consulted on this matter since he had been treating it. Mr Cole thought the majority of the knotweed had gone but agreed Mr Cock should be contacted. Mr Cole asked if there was any need for the access from Munsons Lane further up and asked if this could also be filled or maybe a pedestrian gap be left. Mr Rayner felt this was a good idea and proposed filling up the gap with hedgerow leaving a 1m gap for a gate and filling up the hedgerow behind Mr Irving's allotment on the proviso that Mr Cock feels the knotweed has sufficiently gone, Mrs Arnold seconded, all in favour. Mr Storey felt it would be a good idea to have a hedgerow separating the allotments and farmland behind and said there was a Norfolk County Council project to plant 1 million trees. Mr Fenn erred caution and said invariably the trees would not be very big and it would be better to pay a bit more to obtain 2-year-old stock which is more substantial.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. Cubs & Beavers Allotment – Mr Fenn said he had recently sprayed and strimmed the allotment and asked if the tenant wished to continue to rent this. Clerk to speak to tenant. Mr Storey thanked Mr Fenn for undertaking this work.

10. Scrap Metal – Mr Henderson said the scrap metal was still in situ on his plot which he had recently taken over and asked if Mr Storey was still going to collect it. Mr Storey said he would chase this with the scrap collector.

11. Thank You – Mr Storey thanked the tenants for attending and, on behalf of the Committee, for the hard work they continued to put in to keep their allotments tidy and in order.

Meeting declared closed 7.37 pm