

MINUTE 33T

A meeting of the Allotment Management Committee and the Garden Allotment Tenants was held at The British Legion, Long Lane on Thursday the 28th day of APRIL 2022 – commencing 7.30 pm

COMMITTEE PRESENT - Mr Storey (Chairman), Mrs Arnold, Mr Fenn, Mr Lambert and Mr Rayner. Also present 5 tenants (Mr Cheesley, Mr Cole/Miss Smith, Mr Edwards, Mr George and Mr Heathcote).

APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from Mrs Garland and Miss Pollard.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. **Vermin Control** – No current issues.
2. **Knotweed** – Mr Cock continues to monitor this and said it had not encroached any further. Mr Fenn said he is also keeping an eye on it.
3. **Entrance to Allotments** – The severe dip in the corner of the allotments near Hythe Road was discussed. Mr Cheesley said he finds it difficult to drive here when the ground is soft. Mr Storey and Mr Lambert said they would sort this issue between them.
4. **Water Supply** – Mr Storey said the season had not got off to a good start as it had been very dry. Those tenants present said they had accepted nothing much could be done and were happy to continue supplying their own water.
5. **Planting of New Trees** – Mr Storey thanked all those involved with planting the new hedge.
6. **Allotment Husbandry** – Mr Storey said the Committee had carried out a couple of walkabouts. Most tenants were keeping their allotments to the required contract conditions and he thanked those present for this. He said it was unfortunate that relinquished plots had been left untidy and the Parish Council had appointed a local contractor to spray and rotavate these.
7. **Horse Manure** – Mr Cole said this hadn't materialized.
8. **NCC 1 Million Trees Project** – Mr Storey said some discussion had taken place at recent Parish Council meetings about planting small fruit trees on the allotments to create a public orchard and he asked for the tenants' views on this. Miss Smith questioned how the Committee could plant an orchard when tenants were not permitted to plant fruit trees and believed the same rules should apply to all parties. She suggested other areas in the village may be more suitable such as Old Brandon Road allotments or the playing field. Mr Cole said a community orchard would also encourage people to pilfer off tenants' allotments which was already an issue. Mr Edwards agreed and asked who would be responsible for maintaining the orchard as this would be a cost to the public. Mr Storey said nothing had been decided and he would take these views back to the Parish Council.

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MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

9. Tenant's Suggestion re The Food Pantry – Clerk read out Mrs Garland's email in which she suggested letting vacant allotments free of charge to families who use The Food Pantry, stating that she would be happy to give advice on how to grow fruit and vegetables. Mr Lambert felt the allotments were cheap enough and couldn't see how offering them free of charge would make any difference.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. Skip – Mr Storey asked if the tenants had found the skip useful and Mr Cole said unfortunately several people from the village had also utilised it which was probably due to the easy access of its location. Mr Edwards felt it had been a good exercise and most tenants had made use of it. He said there was still lots of scrap on some allotments and wondered if it had been money well spent. Mr Storey said the Committee had decided to have a skip to remove rubbish left behind by previous tenants which continued to be an issue, and a deposit scheme was something the Committee may consider introducing in future. Mr Cole said it would be unfair to ask existing tenants to pay a deposit but Mr Storey said the Allotment Committee would be discussing this at their next meeting.

11. Dogs – Mr Cole said dogs are still an issue, although most are on leads, and the signs make no difference.

12. Boundary – Mr Cole asked if anything was being done about moving the boundary back to where it should be as this would affect Mr Glasscock's allotment. Mr Storey said this matter would be discussed in due course by the Allotment Committee.

Meeting declared closed 8.05 pm