

MINUTE 36T

A meeting of the Allotment Management Committee and the Garden Allotment Tenants was held at The British Legion, Long Lane on Monday the 27th day of MARCH 2023 – commencing 7.30 pm

COMMITTEE PRESENT - Mr Storey (Chairman), Mrs Arnold, Mr Fenn, Mr Lambert and Mr Rayner. Also present 6 tenants.

APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from Ms Esack and Mr Broatch.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. **Vermin Control** – No current issues and Mr Storey thanked Mr Rolph for undertaking this service. Mr Rolph said there would be no rise in his price for the following year and Mr Storey said the Committee appreciated that.
2. **Knotweed** – Mr Storey said he and Mr Fenn continued to monitor the knotweed which had not encroached any further and would be treated if necessary.
3. **Entrance to Allotments** – Mr Storey said the far corner would be reassessed in the summer.
4. **Allotment Husbandry** – Mr Storey said the Committee had carried out monthly walkabouts and letters had been sent where necessary.
5. **Boundary** – Mr Storey said this matter was ongoing and Miss Pollard who is a GPS Technician offered her assistance if required. Mr Storey thanked her for this.
6. **Future Plans** – Mr Storey gave further insight into the plans he had touched on at the previous meeting as Mrs Garland said his vagueness had caused confusion and uncertainty amongst tenants. Mr Storey said when the Committee assessed the allotments 4/5 months ago, several were overgrown and untidy. Spraying and rotavating used to be undertaken at no cost to the Council by a Committee member who had since left the Council therefore a local contractor now had to be employed to carry out this work which comes at a reasonable cost. Mr Storey said there were several vacant plots on the left hand side of the allotments which were very untidy and at that time, the Committee felt a sensible way forward would be to ask tenants on this side if they had any objection to moving to a plot on the opposite side so that their plots could be parceled up with the vacant plots to create a farm allotment thus eliminating the cost to upkeep vacant plots. However, over that 4/5-month period, he was pleased to report that there had been an increased uptake in allotments so the idea had been shelved for the time-being but he assured tenants that this would only ever have happened if all tenants affected approved anyway. Tenants present understood the reasoning behind this idea and Mrs Garland said in principle, the plan was fine provided tenants were given plenty of notice to move and were reimbursed for any lost plants. Mr Storey said if the situation occurs again then he will ensure all tenants affected are informed immediately.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. Chicken Husbandry – Mr Rolph was concerned that some tenants are housing chickens in coops that are not big enough and asked for clarification on exact area of coop per chicken. Miss Pollard said it was 50 chicken/750 sq feet which equated to 15 sq feet per bird. Clerk to write to all tenants advising them of this.

8. Thank You – Mr Storey said there were some high-class allotments and that he hoped tenants enjoyed tending to them. He also thanked Mr Fenn for assisting the Clerk with new tenants.

Meeting declared closed 8.10 pm