

MINUTE 41T

A meeting of the Allotment Management Committee and the Garden Allotment Tenants was held at The British Legion, Long Lane on Wednesday the 30th day of APRIL 2025 – commencing 7.30 pm

COMMITTEE PRESENT - Mr Storey (Chairman), Mr Cole, Mr Fenn, Mr Lambert and Mr Rayner. Also present 3 tenants.

APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from three tenants.

MINUTES of the last meeting were taken as read, agreed & duly signed. There were no minutes from the scheduled November meeting as there were no attendees.

MATTERS ARISING

1. **Vermin Control** – Mr Storey asked tenants present if they had any concerns to which one tenant replied that he had seen lots of rats recently. Mr Storey said rubble around one particular area was not helping the matter however this was due to be removed shortly so the situation should improve once it is gone.

2. **Knotweed** – Mr Fenn to continue to monitor.

3. **Entrance to Allotments** – Mr Lambert had pushed and levelled the entrance. Mr Storey thanked Mr Cole for cutting around and tidying up the entrance but a tenant said the cutting had been too severe and some of the new hedging had been shredded and disseminated by strimming which would cause it to die should it continue. Mr Cole said he had done this to make it safer for tenants who were having to nudge forward, almost onto the road, to see past it, however the tenant disputed this and said the hedging had been planted in line with the previous hedge. Mr Storey said it would be a huge shame if the hedging was killed off and a waste of time, energy and money. He acknowledged that Mr Cole only had the best intentions but asked him to refrain from cutting the hedge in future. Mr Storey queried whether the bank could be removed to improve visibility but Mr Lambert felt this would only encourage lorries to pull in, making the situation even worse. Mr Storey said he could have a word with Highways.

4. **Boundary** – Nothing further from neighbouring landowner. Decided to shelve until landowner approached the Committee.

5. **Future Plans for Hythe Road Garden Allotments** – Mr Storey said, since the last meeting, the bottom half of plots HR10-19 had been cleared creating a new farm plot which had been added to the neighbouring farm plot. One allotment had been left in such a state that ongoing clearance work had already amounted to £900 even though some Committee members had undertaken a lot of it voluntarily, and the ex-tenant is being pursued for reimbursement. There are now only three tenants along this stretch, of which two have been asked to consider moving across to the other side of the allotments to allow another farm plot to be created. Mr Fenn felt it only fair that the long-standing tenant at the end of the stretch was asked as well. Mr Storey agreed but said that tenant's family had rented the plot for 60-70 years and had always kept it extremely tidy so it would be understandable if he was reluctant to move. He will try to meet with all three tenants for their reactions and then a decision will be made.

6. **Potholes** – Mr Cole said he had tried to fill the potholes as best he could.

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MATTERS ARISING (CONT)

7. Thank You – Mr Storey again thanked the Committee for their work managing the allotments which was all undertaken voluntarily and in their free time.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. Fires – The Committee was notified that a tenant had had a fire the previous evening. Clerk to remind all tenants that no fires are currently being permitted due to the extremely dry spell, with no rain forecast.

9. Bees – A tenant had emailed the Clerk to ask if beekeeping might be permitted at the allotments in future. Mr Storey felt bees were underestimated and did no end of good for yield purposes. To be considered further if there was a definite request.

Meeting declared closed 8.10 pm