

Minutes of **Allotment Advisory Committee** held on Monday **28<sup>th</sup> April 2014** in Messingham Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors N Poole (Chair), & J R Walker; Mr P Chapman, Mr M May, Mr B Ross & Mr M Walker; and the Clerk.

**437. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Councillors Mrs Briggs, T Foster and M Proctor.

**438. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None received

**439. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

The minutes were circulated to all members prior to this meeting. Subject to a change in wording in Min. 431a to read ..... *the top road needs tarmac planings preferably*, they were agreed to be a true record. Adopted by Parish Council on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 Min. 1123/160.

**440. MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Min 435 Allotment Inspections**

1. Allotment 42b. Tenant, Mr K Brumby terminated his tenancy and paid £5.00 for rent/expenses arrears.
2. Allotment 52a. Tenant, Mr S Pendleton has not paid his rent and no improvement to the plot. It was agreed that this tenancy be terminated with instructions to clear the rubbish currently on the plot.
3. Allotment 52aa. Tenant, Ms Thompson Flint terminated her tenancy. To be sent an invoice for £5.00 for rent/expenses arrears.
4. Allotment 11d. Tenant, Ms Elliot – noted that she has indicated verbally to other tenants that she has terminated her tenancy but the Clerk not advised. Agreed to confirm the termination and an invoice for £7.00 expenses arrears to be sent. Mick May agreed to strim the weeds.
5. Allotment 11g. Tenant Mr Martin contacted the Clerk to advise that he had been ill but with the promise to work the allotment to a satisfactory standard. Rent paid – no further action.
6. Allotment 44a. Tenant Mr Ingledew terminated his tenancy. To be sent an invoice for £7.00 for expenses arrears.
7. Allotment 54a. Tenant Mrs Clayton. Clerk advised that she had sent a termination letter to this tenant who had subsequently advised that work was ongoing on the allotment with intention to continue to a satisfactory standard. Termination therefore rescinded. Rent paid.

**b) Min 434b Allotment 35a**

The Clerk reported that Mrs Bradshaw had written to acknowledge her responsibility for any children on the allotment site and assured that they would be restricted to the plot for education purposes and not play.

**441. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Mr Michael May – notice of resignation from the Allotment Advisory Committee with effect from the end of this meeting. When asked his reasons he commented that he felt his contribution was limited but also commented on the number of parish councillors on the committee who had little or no involvement in the allotments. The Chairman explained the reason for the balance of councillors to representatives and also explained that councillors were not obliged to have involvement in the day to day running of the allotments but are on the committee to understand and support the needs of the allotment tenants. Mr May was thanked for his time on the committee. It was agreed to advertise the vacancy for a Garden Representative on the door of the allotment shed.

- b) Mr Roy Tuplin – Suggestion for a silent alarm system to be installed, in his own shed, at his own expense, in the first instance, but with the possibility of offering the system to other tenants. He asked that consideration be given by the Parish Council for grant aid to bulk purchase the alarms if demand was sufficient.

**442. ALLOTMENT TENANCY TERMINATIONS**

Allotments 42b; 52a; 52aa; 11d; 44a as per Min. 440 above.

It was agreed that allotment 44a is in a suitable condition to allocate as soon as possible and is to be split in two halves.

It was agreed that allotment 42b be retained as an informal parking area until demand requires it to be let.

Mr B Ross agreed to keep the empty allotments clear but does not wish to work them.

**443. ALLOTMENT TENANCY APPLICATIONS**

Mr Chris Scott, 18 Brigg Road. APPROVED. Agreed to allocate Allotment 27aa.

**444. ALLOTMENT INSPECTION REPORT**

The following allotments were considered:

- a) Allotment 11f. It was noted that the tenant has recently had a baby but agreed to send an Untidy Notice .
- b) Allotment 16a. Some activity noted – agreed to monitor.
- c) Allotment 16aa. Some activity noted – agreed to monitor.

**445. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Rent Collection – the Clerk advised that only two tenants had failed to pay, other than those referred to in Min 440 above. A reminder letter to be sent.
- b) Grass Cutting – Mr Ross confirmed that the cutting of the grass in the woodland area is in hand and he also agreed to cut the border from Allotment 1a up to the woodland where possible.
- c) Strimming – noted that the areas around the allotment taps are overgrown. Mick May agreed to strim them
- d) Use of Carpets on Allotments – it was noted that the use of carpets for weed control is increasing and it was suggested that the tenancy rules be amended to advise tenants what is acceptable. Mick Walker advised that the use of wool carpets are an organic method of smothering weeds and will also bio-degrade into the soil eventually.
- e) Allotment 35a – it was noted that fencing has been installed with what look like asbestos sheets. It was agreed to confirm the material with the tenant and take action as necessary.
- f) Date of Next Meeting – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING