

Minutes of the **Allotment Advisory Committee** held on Monday **15th September 2014** in Messingham Village Hall.

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

455. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Councillors J R Walker, J McKellar Main and M Proctor.

456. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None Received.

457. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 16th June 2014

The minutes were circulated to all members prior to this meeting. They were agreed to be a true record. Adopted by Parish Council on 14th July 2014 – Min 1136/32.

458. MATTERS ARISING

a) Min 450a Allotment 52a

Tenant, S Pendleton paid arrears and agreed to clear the plot but reported that his compost bin had disappeared.

b) Min 450c Allotment 11d

No response from tenant, Ms Elliot, with regard to the expenses arrears. Send reminder.

c) MIN 450d Allotment 44a

No response from tenant, Mr Ingledew, with regard to the expenses arrears. Noted that two tyres on the plot and a quantity of other debris. Invoice reminder and letter to be sent.

d) Min 450f Silent Alarm System

No further information received from Mr Tuplin but the Clerk reported that Safer Neighbourhoods has requested a mailing list for all allotment holders with a view to inviting them to an event to consider allotment security.

e) Min 454b Rabbit Activity

The Clerk reported that Mr Duffield is intending to continue with rabbit control but that the breeding season has prevented recent visits.

f) Min 454a Refundable Deposit

Response from ERNLLCA to advise that a refundable deposit is permissible but that existing tenants have to be notified in advance of the next due date for rent. It was agreed that only new tenants be subject to a deposit and the amount of £25 was agreed to take effect from April 2015.

459. CORRESPONDENCE

RHS Newsletter

460. ALLOTMENT TENANCY TERMINATIONS

Allotment 27b (joint). Mr M Carter recently deceased. It was agreed that this joint tenancy should be cancelled and the plot allocated in two halves in the future.

461. ALLOTMENT TENANCY APPLICATIONS

Mr Colin Cole, 7 Highgrove. APPROVED. Agreed to allocate 27c (being the plot previously tenanted by Mr Carter.

462. ALLOTMENT INSPECTION REPORT

The following allotments were considered

- a) Allotment 44a – no sign of action from new tenants. Mr P Chapman commented that he had offered his help to the tenants and expected an improvement in the near future.
- b) Allotment 42b – car park area needs strimming. Agreed to ask Parish Council handyman to do this work.
- c) Allotment 17a – monitor.
- d) Allotment 11e – send untidy notice
- e) Allotment 11f – send untidy notice.
- f) Allotment 51a – noted that tenant has recently been injured – monitor
- g) Allotments 52a/52aa - Mr P Chapman agreed to clear these plots of debris so that Mr B Ross can keep rotovated with the other vacant allotments.

463. OTHER BUSINESS**a) Rules Review**

The Clerk provided copies of the rules with additions and revisions for consideration. All were accepted.

b) Councillor Attendance

Mr M Walker commented on the poor attendance by Parish Councillors to these meetings. The Chairman explained that whilst not always present at the Allotment meetings, the councillors of the committee give their full support in Parish Council meetings in all decisions relating to the allotments. It was noted that the input from the representatives is paramount for the smooth running of the allotments.

c) Best Kept Allotment Competition

Judged by Mr M Walker and also an independent person the results as follows:

1st: Allotment 42a; 2nd Allotment 48a; 3rd Allotment 45a.

It was noted that the Best Newcomer was Mrs Simpson who had won the prize last year so was therefore not awarded this year.

d) Criminal Damage

Recent damage to allotments 36, 38, 40 & 42 was noted. It was confirmed that when reporting to the Police the telephone number 101 should be used unless the crime is in progress when it is acceptable to use 999.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING. Meeting closed at 8.00pm