

**Wheathampstead Parish Council  
Allotments Committee  
Monday 20 March 2017 7.30pm**

Present	Councillors	S Haynes G Clark L Halford P Woodhams	Chairman
		R Strachan M Cheale M Wade G Copland	Glebe Rep Folly Field Rep Hitchens Rep Baxendale Rep
		Julia Warren Press Public	Clerk 0 0

**5055-17 Apologies & Substitutions**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Habib and Shardlow.

**5056-17 Declarations of Interest**

The following members declared a personal interest and advised that they rented allotment plots: the Chairman 2 plots on Hitchens Field; M Cheale 2 plots on Folly Field; R Strachan 2 plots on Glebe Field; and G Copland 1 plot on Baxendale Field.

**5057-17 Minutes**

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2016 be approved.

**Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2016 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

**5058-17 Defra Guidance & Avian Influenza**

Attention was drawn to Defra guidance particularly in relation to the keeping of birds. This had been issued with renewal notices and the allotment noticeboards were periodically updated. It was the Tenants' responsibility to comply with the current guidance issued directly by Defra and available on its website.

**Resolved To note the report.**

**5059-17 Pigeons**

The response of the Glebe tenant's response to his keeping of pigeons was noted. Council had expressly forbidden the keeping of pigeons on its allotment fields. It was agreed that renewal of his tenancy be dependent upon removal of pigeons by the specified date, 31 March

2017.

**Resolved**                    **To note the report and that renewal of tenancy was dependent upon removal of pigeons on or by 31 March 2017.**

**5060-17      Skips**

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that 8 yard skips be delivered to Baxendale, Glebe and Hitchens Fields on 25 March. Allotment representatives to liaise with tenants.

**Resolved**                    **That 8 yard skips be delivered to Baxendale, Glebe and Hitchens Fields on 25 March. Allotment representatives to liaise with tenants.**

**5061-17      Glebe access gate**

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to thank Mr O'Sullivan for repairing the broken gate and advise tenants of the combination lock code.

**Resolved**                    **To thank Mr O'Sullivan for repairing the broken gate and advise tenants of the combination lock code.**

**5062-17      Plot clearance**

Consideration was given to cutting/clearing unused plots. It was agreed that glyphosate would not be used, nor would 'plastic' sheets. Untenanted plots may be strimmed up to four times annually.

**Resolved and Recommended**    **That untenanted plots may be strimmed up to four times annually. Glyphosate would not be used, plastic sheeting would not be used.**  
**Involvement**  
**Committee**

**5063-17      Reports from Allotment representatives**

**Baxendale Field**

It was reported that there had been no changes to the site since the last meeting

Plots 24, 28, 29, 31, 33 remained untended and would be strimmed. Plot 24 had had no attention now for several years except by another tenant who occasionally cut down the weeds. It was agreed that the tenant be served notice to quit through insufficient cultivation. Plot 29 which was taken over two years ago was untended all last year and was now overgrown although the tenant had left all her tools on the plot. Tenant to be contacted.

Maintenance work on the hedge and gate at the entrance to the site had

now been undertaken.

The allotments representative reported that there had been no significant flooding for several months so the action taken by a tenant to alleviate the problem of water flow from the adjoining field seemed to have been effective. There had not however been any prolonged heavy rainfall this winter so it may not have been tested as it was in the past few years.

There was an accumulation of rubbish around the plots that could be cleared when the skip was made available on 25 March.

### **Folly Fields**

Concerns were raised about encroachment on plot 37, limited activity on plot 4 and the large pile of hedge trimmings on plot 27.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the noticeboard be reinstated with new legs.

A report on the 'orchard' would be obtained from the allotment representative.

### **Hitchens**

A written report had been circulated. A number of plots were uncultivated, and concerns were raised about sheds and baths. A request for wood chip and manure was made.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that top gate be fixed by the council's contractor.

Water, turned off to alleviate problems with frozen taps was now back on.

The skip, agreed at Minute 5060-17 was welcomed.

### **Glebe**

A number of points were raised including that Plots 2,10 and 15 had had little cultivation, plot 14 had invasive bamboo. The willow on plot 27 needed further reduction. Concerns were raised about potholes on the Marford Road near the access to Glebe Field.

