Allotments Committee

08 December 2014, 19.30h

Present Councillors S Haynes Chairman

P Woodhams
J Shardlow

G Copland Baxendale Rep M Cheale Folly Field Rep

L Harrison Deputy Clerk

Press 0 Public 0

3901-14 Apologies & Substitutions

Apologies received from Cllr Clark (another meeting), Rep R Strachan and Rep M Wade (another meeting).

3902-14 Questions from the Public

None.

3903-14 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared a personal interest and advised that he rented 2 allotment plots on Hitchens Field(Minutes 34**/14).

Cllr Shardlow declared a personal interest and advised that he rented 1 allotment plots on Baxendale field (Mintues 24**/14).

Rep M Cheale declared a personal interest and advised that she rented 1 allotment plot on Folly Field.

Rep G Copland declared a personal interest and advised that he rented 1 allotment plot on Baxendale Field.

3904-14 Minutes

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2014 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on

15 September 2014 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

3905-14 Baxendale Field

It was reported that flooding from the grazing field on to Baxendale field had been an issue during the last period of heavy rain. It was proposed by Cllr Shardlow that the Deputy Clerk would make enquiries to establish who the landowner of the grazing field was and then to write to them regarding current drainage conditions, seconded by Cllr Woodhams and all agreed. It was also reported that the drain on the hedge at Baxendale was also causing flooding issues. It was proposed

by Cllr Shardlow that Wheathampstead Parish Council attend this area and remove the drain, seconded by Cllr Woodhams and all agreed. It was reported that no work had been undertaken by WOSV following the previous survey and report submitted by the WOSV coordinator, and that the gate had not been fixed. The Deputy Clerk updated the Committee that no work on any of the allotment fields was being undertaken by the WOSV under their diary of worked for 2014/2015. Cllr Shardlow proposed that the programme of works for Baxendale was resubmitted to the Community Involvement Committee for approval and that subsequent maintenance work programmes for all the other allotment fields were also drawn up and submitted to the Community Involvement Committee for approval, seconded by Cllr Woodhams and all agreed.

Resolved and recommended

- 1 To note the report.
- 2 To establish the identity of the grazing field and write to the owner regarding drainage.
- 3 To remove the drain at the hedge.
- 4 To resubmit the programme of works for Baxendale to the Community Involvement Committee for approval and that subsequent maintenance work programmes for all the other allotment fields were also drawn up and submitted to the Community Involvement Committee for approval.

3906-14 Glebe Field

It was reported that a number of plots remained uncultivated and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that rent money was still outstanding on two plots (42 and 45). It was proposed by the Chairman that the Deputy Clerk write to the plots in arrears, all agreed. It was reported that vehicles were using the bottom track causing damage to the field. It was proposed by the Chairman that the Deputy Clerk produce signage and placed on gate to discourage vehicular access on the bottom track during the winter period, all agreed.

Resolved and recommended

- 1 To note the report.
- 2 To write to tenants of plots 42 and 45.
- 3 To put up signage to discourage vehicular access on the bottom track.

3907-14 Hitchens

It was reported that the latch on the bottom gate had not been repaired. It was also reported that the wood chippings area were too high. The Chairman stated he would endeavour to ascertain who was responsible and request that no further chippings were left. It was reported that that plot holder 24 was discarding soil along the hedge line causing a visible soil wall. It was agreed by the Chairman that the Deputy Clerk was to write to the plot holder and request that the soil is

removed as per allotment rules and to stop discarding soil in this way, all agreed.

Resolved and recommended

- 1 To note the report
- 2 To repair the latch on the gate.
- 3 To identify who was responsible for leaving the wood chippings and ask them to stop.
- 4 Write to plot holder 24.

3908-14 Folly Fields

It was reported that a number of plots were missing posts and numbering. It was proposed by the Chair that the Deputy Clerk was to email all the allotment reps asking for a list of missing posts and numbering. It was also reported that one of the uncultivated plots was becoming a communal dumping area for rubbish. It was proposed by the Chairman the Council contractor visit the area and ascertain whether a skip was recommended and if required ordered, and that signage and leaflets be placed to discourage communal dumping, all agreed.

Resolved and recommended

- 1 To note the report
- 2 To email the reps requesting a list of missing posts and numbers.
- 3 To visit the field and ascertain whether a skip is required and put up signage and leaflets discouraging communal dumping.

3909-14 Other matters to report

The Deputy Clerk reported that new signage was being placed on the four allotment fields to discourage break-ins ("Allotmentwatch").

3910-14 Date of next meeting: 11th March 2015

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.50hr.

Dated this day of 2014

Chairman