

Allotments Committee**Monday 27th June 2016 7.30pm**

Present	Councillors	S Haynes P Woodhams D Johnston E Habib	Chairman
		R Strachan M Cheale M Wade G Copland	Glebe Rep Folly Field Rep Hitchens Rep Baxendale Rep
		L Harrison Press Public	Deputy Clerk 0 0

Apologies & Substitutions

Apologies from Cllrs J Shardlow and G Clark.

Declarations of Interest

The following members declared a personal interest and advised that they rented allotment plots: the Chairman 2 plots on Hitchens Field; Cllr Habib 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.

Minutes

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2015 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2015 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

Baxendale Field

The Chairman confirmed that he and the Deputy Clerk had visited this site with the representative last week.

The representative and Deputy Clerk confirmed that there were five empty plots and two with tenants that hadn't done any cultivation (24 and 29). It was proposed by the Chairman and agreed by all that the tenant on plot 24 would receive a letter from the office informing him that due to the ongoing lack of cultivation over the last two years the Council would be terminating his tenancy on 31/3/17. It was also proposed by the Chairman and agreed by all that the tenant on plot 29 would receive a letter regarding the lack of cultivation this year.

The Chairman proposed that the Deputy Clerk get a quote from WPC contractor to cut back vegetation at the entrance to the site, and agreed by all.

The Chairman proposed that the Deputy Clerk get a quote from the WPC contractor to repair the gate into the site, and agreed by all.

The representative requested a skip for Autumn 2016. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed by all that all four sites would get a skip in September 2016.

Resolved

- 1. Note the report**
- 2. Tenant on plot 24 to receive a letter from the office informing him that due to the ongoing lack of cultivation over the last two years the Council would be terminating his tenancy on 31/3/17.**
- 3. Tenant on plot 29 to receive a letter regarding the lack of cultivation this year.**
- 4. Deputy Clerk to get a quote from WPC contractor to cut back vegetation at the entrance to the site.**
- 5. Deputy Clerk to get a quote from the WPC contractor to repair the gate into the site.**
- 6. All four sites to get a skip in September 2016.**

Glebe Field

The representative reported that the following plots had seen little sign of cultivation: 2, 10, 15, and 31, with 14, 41, 20 and 22 part cultivation.

The representative confirmed that another tenant had been treating some of the site for dock.

It was proposed by the Chairman and agreed by all that the tenant on plot 2 would receive a letter regarding the lack of cultivation this year.

The representative confirmed that the polycarbonate green house on plot 19 had been totally destroyed by the last storm.

The representative confirmed that there was a pile of rubbish on plot 45b (car parking area) ready to go into a skip.

The representative confirmed that plot 14 was missing a numbered post and plot 4a had the wrong numbering (should be 4).

The representative confirmed that the water meter reading as of 27/6/16 was 1876. In March 2016 it had been 1756, a difference of 111 which was right for this time of year.

The Chairman confirmed that he and the Deputy Clerk were to visit this field this week.

Resolved and recommended

- 1. Note the report.**
- 2. Tenant on plot 2 to receive a letter regarding the lack of cultivation this year.**

Hitchens

The Chairman confirmed that he and the Deputy Clerk had visited this site with the representative last week.

The representative and Deputy Clerk confirmed the following plots were empty: 5a, 13b, 15a, 23, 33b, 41a59, 74 and 97a.

The representative confirmed that the following plots had seen little sign of cultivation: 7b, 13a, 14, 24, 25, 26, 38, 43, 44a, 44b, 46a, 48, 79b and 81. It was proposed by the Chairman and agreed by all that the tenants on these plots would receive letters from the office regarding lack of cultivation.

The representative confirmed that there was a lot of rubbish across the plots.

The representative reported that the uncultivated and empty plots were causing issues for other plot holders due to tall grass spreading grass seed. The representative confirmed that the area of blackthorn had been cleared by a tenant.

A discussion took place regarding the management of empty plots on all sites. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that there were 18 empty plots across all four sites as of 27/6/16. It was also confirmed by the Deputy Clerk that the WPC contractor had quoted up to £400 to clear all current empty plots and a further £15 per visit per plot to keep them stumped. Various other options were discussed. It was proposed by the Chairman and agreed by all that:

- the office would request a quote from the WPC contractor to treat one plot with herbicide and rotivate;
- publicity would take place to promote a "special offer on plots" (treated and rotivated) at Village Day at the WPC gazebo manned by M Cheale and E Habib,
- A5 leaflet insert in the next edition of the Pump created by the Chairman and Deputy Clerk and on WPC noticeboards,
- Deputy Clerk to contact the Allotments Social Representative to discuss the above and other means of promoting the cultivation of plots with residents (ie. open evening in the Hall, sharing allotments with experienced plot owners and inexperienced families, promotion of plots with schools and local clubs, etc).

The representative confirmed that the tap and pipe at the bottom of the site was still in need of repair and that the bottom gate needed re-aligning to negate future damage. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed by all that the WPC contractor would be requested to fix both.

The issue of baths filled with water on Hitchens was discussed. The representative agreed to check the site and report back at the next meeting.

Resolved and recommended

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. Tenants on plots 7b, 13a, 14, 24, 25, 26, 38, 43, 44a, 44b, 46a, 48, 79b and 81 to receive letters from the office regarding lack of cultivation.**
- 3. Get a quote from the WPC contractor to treat one plot with herbicide and rotivate.**
- 4. Publicity would take place to promote a "special offer on plots" (treated and rotivated) at Village Day at the WPC gazebo manned by M Cheale and E Habib,**
- 5. Deputy Clerk and Chairman to prepare a "Allotment special offer" A5 leaflet insert into next edition of the Pump and on WPC noticeboards,**
- 6. Deputy Clerk to contact the Allotments Social Representative to discuss the above and other means of promoting the cultivation of plots with residents.**
- 7. WPC contractor requested to fix tap and gate at bottom of field.**

Folly Fields

The Chairman confirmed that he and the Deputy Clerk had visited this site with the representative last week.

The representative reported that the following plots remained uncultivated: 1, 6, 20b, 22, 24 and 29. It was proposed by the Chairman and agreed by all that all tenants on these plots would receive letters from the office regarding lack of cultivation.

The representative requested contact be made with Cllr J Shardlow regarding a banner ad other old publicity material in regards to allotments. The Chairman agreed to do this.

Resolved and recommended

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. Tenants on plots 1, 6, 22, and 29 would receive letters from the office regarding lack of cultivation.**

Other matters

The representative from Hitchens requested an agenda item for the next meeting – the medium and long term management plan for the allotment sites. This was agreed by the Chairman. Cllr Johnston confirmed the allotments were included in various sections of the Neighbourhood Plan and the representative agreed to get involved in the NP process as required.

Resolved and recommended

- 1 Medium and long term management plan for the allotment sites to go an agenda item for the next meeting**

Date of next meeting: 12 September 2016

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.05 hrs.

Dated this day of 2016

Chairman