

Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting held on Monday 11th July 2022 at Hoopers Field Sports Pavillion at 7.30pm

Present: Bob Biggs (Chair), Dave Hayward, Donna Stalker (Parish Councillors) Rosemary Savage, Fred Day (Allotment Representatives)

In attendance: 8 members of the Public

1 Apologies: Joe Smith (Wanborough Parish Council) Derek Benfield (Covingham Parish Council)

2 Declaration of Interest: Dave Hayward declared an interest as he is an allotment holder.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting: All agreed, matters arising are included in the agenda.

4 Meeting adjourned for Public Questions:

Several questions were raised about Security as Conlon had removed hedging and fencing from the boundary, suggestions were made by Allotment Holders that they should be allowed to plant hedging on their boundaries to compensate. The Chair confirmed that the committee was seeking urgent meetings with the contractors to discuss the issues and was reluctant to consider hedging at this juncture as it would be contrary to the allotment agreements and dilute the argument that SBC/ Contractors should be supplying Steel Fencing.

5 Update on Vacant Plots: Dave Hayward gave an update on the actions taken on the abandoned Plots: 5 new agreements sent out and received back signed; 2 termination letters now sent; 4 warning letters sent; Dave also confirmed he was in discussion with another Plot holder regarding his plot.

6 Representatives Reports: Rosemary presented the latest report from their last walk round. Many of the issues highlighted are addressed in item 5 however the representatives stressed their anger that they seem to be doing this and reporting and don't see any action. They consider that actions should be quicker and that the state of the allotments are deplorable. They felt that provision should be made to trim the vacant plots and that plot holders should be reminded to maintain their pathways. The Chair explained that the committee were giving some plot holders the benefit of the doubt due to covid and now we're taking action. Time also had to be given so that due process from warning letter to termination happened. Consideration would be given to trimming if needed but as the new plot holders take possession the position would be reviewed.

7 Allotment Competition: The Chair confirmed that the first round has taken place and the final round will take place on Friday 29th July 2022 at 5.30pm.

11 Water Trough: Due to the lateness of the Hour, Donna had asked to be excused. The Chair moved this Item so that it could be discussed whilst the committee was still quorate. A request had been made for an additional water trough in the middle of the Allotments. After discussion it was concluded that as there was a trough in the middle of the allotments and the logistical problems plus cost wouldn't justify a further trough no action would be taken. Donna then left the meeting.

8 Ron Kent Allotment Trophy: The Chair confirmed that Angela had purchased a new shield in Ron's name to be presented to the best Allotment winner in the future.

9 Wanborough Road Closure: The Chair confirmed that the committee were still trying to arrange a meeting to discuss the outstanding issues.

10 Security Fencing: As discussed at Public Questions the Security issues need to be addressed. Dave Hayward expressed regret that Derek wasn't present as he felt that we should be asking Covingham Parish Council to also bring pressure on SBC. Covingham PC to be contacted.

12 Waiting List: 8 still on the list

Date of Next Meeting: Will be the Annual Assembly at the Allotments
Meeting Closed at 10.15pm