

## WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

### Notes from the informal allotment meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.30pm at Hooper's Field Sports Facility

**Present:** Dave Hayward (Chair) and Omar Mirza (Wanborough Parish Council).

**In attendance:** Angela Raymond (Clerk), Val Curtis (Covingham Parish Council), Freddie Day (Allotment Rep) and three allotment holders.

Dave Hayward confirmed that unfortunately the meeting was inquorate as John Warr (Parish Councillor) had not turned up and had not sent his apologies, leaving only two Parish Councillors. It was agreed that as so many have made the effort to attend, including those from Covingham who have had to travel around the road closure, it was agreed to hold an informal meeting, discussing agenda items but with no decisions agreed.

**1** Apologies: Joe Smith

**2** Introductions – Dave Hayward confirmed that there had been a few changes on the Parish Council: both Bob Biggs and Donna Stalker had resigned as Parish Councillors, Bob Biggs was no longer the chair of the allotment committee. Dave Hayward confirmed that had been appointed the chair of the committee, with the other committee members being Omar Mirza, John Warr and Joe Smith. Dave Hayward also confirmed that Georgia Wheeler (Assistant Clerk) who had been working on the allotments had also left Parish Council.

*Allotment holders present at the meeting raised the following matters:-*

- *A request for a skip was asked to be arranged to help clear some of the rubbish on the allotment site.*
- *Some of the newer allotment holders have inherited a lot of rubbish when they took on their plots; it was agreed that some help would be provided with the removal of this rubbish.*

*Clerk confirmed that Parish Council has an account with SBC, so the Parish Council's contractor can collect rubbish and take it to the recycling centre at a lower cost compared with hiring a skip. Clerk confirmed that she would discuss with allotment holders and arrange for the sites to be cleared.*

#### Update on vacant plots

One plot holder has recently given up their plot (D5a & b) and these are in the process of being re-let. All plots will then be allocated.

#### Waiting list

There is currently a small waiting list of 7 from Covingham and 1 from Wanborough (with a specific requirement).

#### Other matters

Allotment Reps report was discussed:-

- Path between rows A & B, especially from A3, needs cutting.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> warning letters to be sent to B1a, B3a & b and D4; one months' notice to show signs of cultivation.
- A3 is a large and difficult plot that has not been cultivated for some time; clearly the new allotment holder is not coping and no progress has been made. It was agreed to offer to put her back onto the waiting list so that a smaller more manageable plot can be offered to her.
- 1<sup>st</sup> warning letter to be sent to D3b.
- Committee to keep an eye on plots E10 and E11.

Complaint in relation to bonfire smoke – E-mail to be sent to remind allotment holders of the terms of their agreement in relation to bonfires and to ask them to consider the direction of the wind before lighting their bonfires and to make sure smoke doesn't go across the road or new footpath.

*Angela Raymond  
Parish Clerk & RFO*

Wanborough Road Closure – Conlon have confirmed that currently access to the allotment site is from Covingham direction only, but Wanborough residents can walk to the allotment site. It's not clear how long this will be for as they are still working about mid-way along the road between the allotment site and Horpit crossroads. Clerk confirmed that she will try and get a further update from Conlon.

Security Fencing – Parish Council have had an offer of Heras fencing from SBC's compound. Clerk confirmed that a resident from Great Moorleaze had asked SBC if they could help with some fencing for the allotment site, SBC then contacted Clerk and met to discuss. Dave Hayward and Joe Smith measured up the allotment site and this was sent to SBC. It was not clear how much Heras fencing they would be able to offer but there is due to be another meeting in mid-July when more should be known. This would be a temporary solution and the appearance might be a problem.

Allotment competition – It was proposed that this should still go ahead, aiming for the first round of the competition to be held in mid-July and the second round in mid-August. The annual presentation and BBQ was proposed to be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. It was proposed that the annual meeting of the allotment holders could be tied in with the annual presentation on 9<sup>th</sup> September, so allotment holders need to be made aware what the arrangements are. Clerk to e-mail allotment holders.

Val Curtis gave an update on the progress being made with Covingham Parish Council in finding land for allotments for Covingham Parish. She confirmed that they thought they had a site in Greenbridge but it appears that this site might not be available so they are still waiting. She confirmed that she would keep Wanborough Parish Council up to date once she has more news.

Date of next meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023