

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Allotments Committee** held on 3rd June 2013 at Hallgate Allotments, Fenton Road, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs M P Bucknell, P Clarke, T R Huggins, P S Potts, J C Price, Mrs S A Pryke, Mrs J E Tavener, G C M Willis and Mrs A R Wyatt.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J M Cole and Mrs M H Harlock.

01/13 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Pryke and seconded by Councillor Huggins, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs J E Tavener be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

Councillor Mrs Tavener in the Chair.

02/13 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Tavener and seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs A R Wyatt be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

03/13 MINUTES

Upon being moved and seconded, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th October 2012 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

04/13 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Pryke reported that her husband had relinquished the tenancy of the plot that he had rented at the allotments and she therefore no longer had a disclosable pecuniary interest in the Council's allotments.

Councillor Mrs Wyatt reported that, earlier that day, she had become aware that her niece was a tenant of one of the allotments as a result of which she had an other interest under the Code of Conduct. She had been unable to complete a written application for a dispensation to speak and vote on the subject of allotments in advance of the meeting but it was

RESOLVED

that a dispensation be granted to Councillor Mrs Wyatt to speak and vote on matters affecting the allotments at Hallgate until the next election of councillors in May 2016.

05/13 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee considered the following matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2012:-

(a) Hedge adjoining A141 Boundary

Further to Minute No. 9/12, the Clerk reported that a contractor had been engaged by the Council and had cut the boundary hedge adjoining the A141 to the height of the perimeter fence.

(b) Signs

Arising from Minute No. 9/12, the Clerk reported that the Handymen had made new plot signs over the winter period which had subsequently been installed at the allotments.

(c) Permissive Path on Eastern Boundary

Further to Minute No. 9/12, the Clerk reminded Members that an application had been made for planning permission for change of use of the field adjoining the northern boundary of the allotments for storage and living accommodation for travelling showpeople. To avoid the necessity of constructing a footway between the site entrance to the roundabout alongside the A141 to access village services, the applicants had subsequently proposed that the occupants of the site could make use of the unauthorised track in the field at the rear of the site to link with the public footpath that crossed the A141 further to the north.

Under the circumstances, the Clerk reported that he had not contacted the owner of the field with the unauthorised track to ask if he would be prepared for this to be designated as a permissive path to link with the track being used by the public near the eastern boundary of the allotments from Fenton Road. As the Parish Council had recommended refusal of the planning application, Members suggested that the designation of the track as a permissive path should not be pursued at the present time as this would be unsuitable for use by families from the travelling showpeople's site to access the village if planning permission was granted.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

- (a) that the possible designation of the track on the eastern boundary of the allotments as a permissive path be not pursued; and
- (b) that notices be erected on the track indicating that this was not a public right of way.

06/13 HALLGATE ALLOTMENTS

The Committee undertook an inspection of the allotments at Hallgate, all of which were let with 4 people remaining on the waiting list.

Members were pleased to see that the vast majority of the plots were being well cultivated. However plots 36 and 44 showed no sign of cultivation during the current season and part of plot 23 was overgrown. In addition a half plot at number 6 still had to be let, the tenancy recently having been relinquished by the tenant leaving the plot overgrown.

A tenant drew attention to the fact that two of the taps at the allotments were leaking which the Clerk indicated he would ask the Handymen to repair.

Members also observed that fruit trees had been planted on plot 32. Having amended the tenancy conditions at the Committee's last meeting to prevent the planting of trees, the Clerk indicated that he would contact the tenant to establish whether the trees had been planted subsequent to the change of conditions in which case he would ask that they be removed.

The Clerk reported that the tenant of plot 1 had complained earlier in the year about the land being waterlogged as the ditch adjoining Fenton Road was full of water. The culvert under the access road to the allotments had become blocked and a number of trees had grown in and around the ditch. The Clerk reported that he had raised this with the County Council's Highways Supervisor and had met him on site to discuss the situation.

The Highways Supervisor had maintained that the ditch did not form part of the highway verge even though it was outside the allotment perimeter fence. However Members suggested that the ditch had been created by the County Council as part of the Warboys bypass scheme in the 1980s when Fenton Road had been realigned near the A141 roundabout. Formerly this had been part of the allotments but the land had been sold to the County Council for the highway improvement scheme. The Clerk reported that he would check the deeds for the allotment land and would take the matter up again with the County Council.

As a result of the presence of a vehicle that had been parked at the entrance to the allotments for some time, the Clerk reported that the Police had confirmed that this had not been stolen. As a result the District Council had been asked to arrange for the removal of the vehicle as it appeared that it had been abandoned.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Clerk be requested to serve notice to quit on the tenants of plot nos. 36 and 44; and
- (b) that a letter be sent to the tenant of plot 23 requesting that the weed growth be cut down.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

Chairman.