

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Allotments Committee** held on 29th June 2015 at Hallgate Allotments, Fenton Road, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillors Mrs M P Bucknell, Mrs J M Cole, Ms L A Gifford, J A Parker, Mrs J Tavener, G C M Willis, Ms S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Mrs F Dykstra (representing allotment tenants).

01/15 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Ms Gifford and seconded by Councillor Willis, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor J A Parker be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

Councillor Parker in the Chair.

02/15 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Wyatt and seconded by Councillor Parker, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor Ms L A Gifford be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

03/15 MINUTES

Upon being moved and seconded, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27th October 2014 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

04/15 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made by Members in respect of items appearing on the agenda.

05/15 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee considered the following matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2014:-

(a) Track on Eastern Boundary

Further to Minute No. 11/14(a), the Clerk advised Members that the signs erected at either end of the track on the eastern boundary of the allotments had been removed by members of the public from time to time but had been replaced by the Handymen. As the signs indicated that the track was in private ownership, the Clerk pointed out that this should prevent it from being claimed as a public right of way by members of the public in the future.

(b) Ditch on Southern Boundary

Further to Minute No. 11/14(b), the Clerk reported that no further progress had been with regard to the suggestion that the County Council should construct a culvert under the access roadway to the allotments. Although it had been suggested that the assistance of County Councillor Tew be sought in the matter, Members were reminded that Councillor Tew had been ill for a long period of time since the previous meeting.

The Clerk pointed out that there was little likelihood of the County Council building a culvert under the roadway in the present financial climate, even if they could be persuaded to accept responsibility. As some 30 years had elapsed since the roadway had been constructed and no further problems had arisen since, the Committee agreed to take no further action at the present time.

(c) Additional Facilities

Further to Minute No. 13/14, the Clerk reported that he had had insufficient time to undertake the survey of tenants to obtain their views on the installation of new storage and toilet facilities at the allotments.

06/15 HALLGATE ALLOTMENTS

(Councillor Mrs Bucknell arrived at the meeting during the course of the inspection by the Committee.)

The Committee undertook an inspection of the allotments at Hallgate. The Clerk advised that all of the allotments were let, although one person had yet to return a signed tenancy agreement which had been sent to him earlier in the month. Members were also informed that currently there were no names on the waiting list.

Members were pleased with the standard of cultivation of the great majority of plots. However as part of plots 37, 41 and 45 contained some weed growth with only part of each plot having been cultivated, the Clerk indicated that he would write to the tenants asking them to cut down the weeds. As plot 43 appeared to have been abandoned, the Committee agreed to terminate the tenancy of that plot.

Members commented on the unsightly appearance of the plot used by the Council to burn hedge trimmings etc. and the Clerk agreed to investigate the feasibility of constructing retaining walls and purchasing an incinerator.

Members observed that a gap in the hedge at plot 2 appeared to have been caused by a vehicle having left the highway and the Clerk indicated that he would ask the Handymen to carry out the necessary repairs.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Clerk be requested to serve notice to quit on the tenant of plot no. 43; and
- (b) that letters be sent to the tenants of plot nos. 36, 41 and 45 asking them to tidy up the plots by removing the excessive weed growth.

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

Chairman.