

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Allotments Committee** held on 16th March 2020 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor J A Parker, Chairman

Councillors Ms L A Gifford, S J Green, Mrs M H Harlock, P S Potts, Mrs J Tavener and Dr S C Withams.

P Bellamy and Mrs F Dykstra (Allotments Association).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs J M Cole. R J Dykstra and Mrs S J Wilcox.

08/19 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Green, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4th November 2020 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

09/19 MEMBERS INTERESTS

Mr Bellamy and Mrs Dykstra declared disclosable pecuniary interests as tenants of allotments from the Parish Council.

RESOLVED

that a dispensation to speak but not vote be granted to Mr Bellamy and Mrs Dykstra on matters appearing on the agenda.

10/19 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee noted that there were no matters arising from the Minutes of its meeting held on 4th November 2019 that would not be dealt with under Minute No. 11/19 below.

11/19 ALLOTMENTS

A report was submitted by the Clerk (a copy of which had been circulated to all Members), summarising the actions taken since the previous meeting of the Committee and drawing attention to the issues that had been discussed by the Chairman and the Clerk at a meeting with the Association's representatives on 5th March 2020.

The Clerk reported that, although Red Tile Wind Farm Trust Fund Ltd. had approved a grant for the delivery of soil improver for use by allotment tenants, Amey Cespa no longer were willing to deliver soil improver in bulk. The Clerk reported that he had been unable to source another company that would supply in bulk, other than in one cubic metre bags which would be uneconomic. Arising from a suggestion by the Association's representatives, the Clerk indicated that he would enquire whether the ENVAR site at Woodhurst supplied compost in bulk.

(Councillor Mrs Tavener arrived at this point in the proceedings.)

The Committee was informed that, although notice to quit had been served on five tenants for non-payment of rent in January, there had been several requests for new tenancies in the past two months. As a result the Clerk reported that there were now only four full and one half plots currently vacant which was the lowest number for several years. Following the Committee's decision at the previous meeting to permit people living outside the Parish to apply for tenancies, two plots had been let since to non-Warboys residents. One plot had been rented by one of the scout leaders and would be used to encourage youngsters in the uniformed organisations to grow and harvest crops.

The Association's representatives reported that there had been no further sightings of rats or rabbits at the allotments in recent weeks.

(Councillor Ms Gifford arrived at this point in the proceedings.)

The Clerk reported that the County Council would be undertaking the resurfacing of Fenton Road in the week commencing 30th March and that he had arranged for two loads of planings to be tipped in the car park near the gate for use in filling the ruts and holes that had appeared in the roadway at the allotments. Mrs Dykstra offered to try to arrange a working party of tenants to collect and spread the planings on the roadway.

A notice had been posted on the tenants Facebook account by Mrs Dykstra asking tenants to retrieve any compost bins that had been blown about the site by the recent high winds. Any that were not removed would be disposed of by the Handymen.

The Committee was informed that the Association's representatives had been made aware of the Council's decision to re-allocate the money derived from the sale of allotment land arising from the A141 bypass development for use on other capital expenditure.

The Clerk reported that he did not have any further information concerning the offer by a village resident to provide a new notice board for use at the allotments but that he would contact the person concerned to determine whether he still intended to proceed.

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

Chairman.