

# **WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Allotments Committee** held at the Parish Centre, Warboys on 21st March 2021.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor J A Parker, Chairman

Councillors. R J Dykstra, Mrs M H Harlock 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, Ms L A Gifford, P S Potts, Mrs C L Sproats and Mrs S C Wilcox.

## **08/21 MINUTES**

Upon being moved by Councillor Dykstra and seconded by Councillor Dr Withams, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1st November 2021 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

## **9/21 MEMBERS INTERESTS**

Mr Bellamy and Mrs Dykstra declared disclosable pecuniary interests as tenants of allotments from the Parish Council. Councillor Dykstra declared a similar interest as his wife was an allotment tenant but he had previously received a dispensation to speak but not vote on matters affecting the allotments.

## **RESOLVED**

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

## **10/21 MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee noted that there were no matters arising from their meeting held on 1st November 2021.

## **11/21 ALLOTMENTS**

A report was submitted by the Clerk (a copy of which had been circulated to all Members), drawing attention to the issues that had been discussed by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk at a meeting with the Association's representatives on 7th March 2022.

Members were informed that Red Tile Wind Farm Trust Fund Ltd had again approved a grant of £360 for the supply of soil improver for allotment tenants and the Clerk reported that he would try to arrange delivery on a Friday at the earliest opportunity.

Members were informed that all of the plots were now let with three names on the waiting list. As one of those persons lived outside the Parish, the Clerk confirmed that a plot would not be offered to them unless there were vacancies and no Warboys residents on the list.

At the liaison meeting, one of the Association's representatives had enquired whether the plot that was being rented by the Moat House Surgery's Social Prescriber for patient referrals was intended to be cultivated. The Clerk indicated that he would contact the surgery to establish the position when time permitted.

The Committee was informed that there did not appear to be a particular problem with rats and rabbits at the allotments at the moment.

At the liaison meeting, the Association's representatives had confirmed that no problems were being experienced currently with the use of the shipping container provided for tenants to store equipment and tools. However, the Association's representatives had asked if the old railway carriage previously used for storage could be retained. The Clerk had explained that the structure was becoming dilapidated with the container having been intended to replace the carriage when this no longer became cost effective to maintain. The Association's representatives considered the carriage to have an aesthetic value and felt that it was easier for some tenants to open than the heavy door of the shipping container.

A number of tenants had volunteered to repair the carriage if the Council provided the materials. One of the Association's representatives had undertaken to obtain a cost for the materials required but it transpired that he had been under the impression that this would be considered in the autumn instead of at the current meeting. Consideration of the matter was therefore deferred until the next meeting.

No issues were raised by the Association's representatives in terms of the condition of the roadway over the winter period.

The Association's representatives confirmed that the plot used by the Handymen to dispose of hedge cuttings, etc. was being well kept and was not presenting a problem. They also welcomed the installation of the replacement notice board that had been constructed for them by a local craftsman.

It was agreed that a site visit at the allotments would be undertaken by the Council's representatives after the election in May in order to view the condition of the various plots and establish that they were being actively cultivated by tenants.

The date of the next liaison meeting with the Association's representatives was set for 24th October 2022.

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

**Chairman.**