

Allotments Committee

15 July 2010, 20.00h

Present	Councillors	S Walford D Hills J Turner	Chairman substitute
		M Cheale G Copland M Wade S Young T Barton F Shortt	Folly Rep Baxendale Rep Hitchens Rep Glebe Rep (sub)
		Julia Warren	Clerk to Council
		Press	0
		Public	1

1200-10 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Clark (District Council meeting) and Reason (personal reasons) Cllr Hills substituted and for Mr Watson for whom Mr Young substituted

1201-10 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

James Talbot enquired whether he could use the allotment field notice boards to advertise his gardening services. He outlined his experience and credentials and gave examples of suggested posters. He was asked to leave the meeting and return next morning for his posters and the Clerk to advise him of the committee's decision.

Members debated his offer and agreed that advertising was permissible. Some allotment holders, whether, for example, new, infirm, wanting a winter dig over or shed construction may welcome paid support. It was emphasised that consent did not imply recommendation by the Parish Council and word of mouth on the allotment fields would establish whether the business flourished.

Recommendation To permit advertising on the allotment boards of this allotment service until further notice

1202-10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Turner advised that she rented an allotment plot on Glebe Field

1203-10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2010 were approved.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2010 as a true and fair record, and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

1204-10 BAXENDALE REPORT

Mr Copland presented his report which had been previously circulated. One tenant had recently passed away, the family had been asked whether they wished to retain the allotment. Cultivation of plots 24 and 28 was limited, agreed letters to be sent – allotment rules to plot 24 and warning of reallocation to tenant of plot 28.

The hedge gap to the Slype had recently been filled with soil and chestnut fencing pending autumn hedge planting, (Minutes 934-10, 1008-10). It was reported that this had been increasingly used as a general short cut to the public footpath.

Post meeting note – this 'grip' gap was deliberately cut to enable better drainage. A 90° bent drainage pipe would be installed.

**Resolved: 1 To note the report
2 Clerk to write to tenants of plots 24 & 28**

1205-10 GLEBE REPORT

Mr Young presented Mr Watson's report which had previously been circulated to members.

It was agreed that where a 5 pole ('half') plot is relinquished first refusal should be offered to the tenant of the other 'half'. It was then agreed that the tenant of plot 47a be offered 47b.

A number of tenants were sent warning letters after the previous meeting. Those who had not replied and were not cultivating including tenant of 44, 45 and 32 should be given notice to improve by 1 September or to vacate thereafter. The tenant of Plot 6 should be down sized to a 5 pole plot and be offered the choice of which half. The plot had been monitored, as agreed with the tenant, for 3 months and the decision was to offer the option to continue monitoring on a smaller plot, which if not cultivated to an acceptable standard, would be withdrawn from March 2011

It was agreed that the top gate needed repairing.

Concerns were raised over a number of recent break-ins on the allotments including a variety of thefts. Tenants had been, and would continue to be, reminded not to keep valuable items on the allotments.

The chairman has been advised that a number of complaints had been received from allotment tenants who preferred not to be disturbed whilst working, specifically by the Glebe south grazing field tenant. The Clerk was to write to him advising that he was causing a nuisance to some allotment tenants and that he should restrict his activities to the

area he rented and avoid the allotments. She was further asked to advise him that this would be reviewed prior to Council's consideration to renew his licence when it expired in February 2011.

Recommended

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 Clerk to write to tenants of plots 32, 44, and 45 giving notice (1 Sept) to improve cultivation or vacate**
- 3 To note the lack of progress on Plot 6, reduce the tenancy to a smaller 5 pole plot giving the tenant choice of which half, and continue monitoring its cultivation. If not satisfactory it would be withdrawn effective from March 2011**
- 4 To give first refusal to the adjacent half plot tenant when a 5 pole 'half' plot is relinquished.**
- 5 To offer, in the first instance, plot 47A to tenant of 47B**
- 6 To label 5 pole plots A and B with just the one number sign**
- 7 All to be aware of personal belongings security and recent spate of allotments thefts**
- 8 Clerk to write to tenant of Glebe South grazing field asking him to keep himself to himself and that the committee would monitor the situation prior to any renewal of his grazing licence.**
- 9 To repair top gate**

1206-10 HITCHENS REPORT

Mr Wade presented his report. The majority of plots were in reasonable/good cultivation but some noticeably poorer.

Plot delineation continued and was generally working well. Concerns had been raised regarding the increased numbers of tenants following the downsizing of plots to 5 poles from 10 in first instance. Agreed that the Clerk contact the Water Board to establish whether better pressure were possible.

It was agreed that 2 medium skips be hired in September, date to be confirmed and disseminated to tenants by allotment representative, and situated at north and south ends of the field.

Members further agreed to have mown the grass strip on the Necton Road side of Hitchens.

It was reported that although tenants were asked to indicate their willingness to share contact details with allotment representatives

when tenancies were renewed in April many had omitted to indicate consent. Agreed that enquirers for allotments be asked this question when being added to waiting lists.

- Recommended**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 Clerk to contact the Water Board regarding potential increase in pressure.**
 - 3 Clerk to arrange for grass cutting of strip near Necton Road, and that in future years this be included in the mowing contract**
 - 4 Clerk to ask potential tenants to share their contact information with allotment representatives**
 - 5 2 medium skips to be hired for a weekend in September.**

1207-10 FOLLY REPORT

Mrs Cheale presented her report

An estimate of £200+ had been obtained to remove the substantial concrete base left on plot 4 by the previous tenant. It was agreed that this work be undertaken.

All the Allotment representatives were asked to identify sheds with concrete bases and report to the next meeting. Similarly they were asked to identify plots with untidy borders where delineation was poor through abundance of weeds.

Mrs Cheale would remark the borders of undefined plots.

As at Minute 1205-10 tenant of plot 6 be asked to improve cultivation, down size 5 poles or vacate by 1 September

Members noted the continued problem (as identified at Minute 1090-10) of abundant rabbits. The offer of assistance from the Nomansland Warden was accepted. There would be no cost to the parish.

A further letter was also to be sent regarding removal of the shrubs on plots 10 (lilac and pampas) and 16 (laurel). The laurel required spraying. Tenants to be reminded that garden shrubs, such as these, contravened the allotment rules and should be removed within a month or they would be removed and the tenant invoiced.

- Recommended**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 Concrete base at plot 4 to be removed**
 - 3 All Allotment Representatives to identify concrete bases for existing sheds and untidy weedy plot borders and report to next meeting**
 - 4 Clerk to write to plot 6 asking for improved cultivation, to down size or vacate by 1 September**
 - 5 To utilise the services of the Nomansland**

Ranger

- 6 Clerk to write to plots 10 & 16 reminding them once again of their contravention of rules permitting garden shrubs on the allotments and requiring their removal within one calendar month. Failure to remove would result in the tenant being invoiced for the removal.**

1208-10 BUDGET REVIEW

Recommended To note the report

1209-10 REQUESTS

Requests had been received from plot 69 Hitchens to paint a shed striped green and cream or blue and white. Members agreed that neutral colours should be used, for example green or brown only

Plot 33 Glebe had requested permission to erect a fruit cage, this was granted.

- Recommended**
- 1 That allotment buildings be neutral coloured one -tone for example green or brown to blend into the environment**
 - 2 Not to grant permission to paint a shed stripy green and cream or blue and white**
 - 3 To permit the construction of a fruit cage on Glebe 33**

1210-10 VILLAGE DAY 2010

Ms Shortt presented her report which had been circulated. The allotments stall had been a resounding success and all involved were thanked including Mrs Cheale for the banner and illustrated display board, Mr Watson for photographs and gazebo and Mr Wade for his A-Z of allotment produce. The stall was busy and much interest generated from both existing and potential allotment holders, a contact list was passed to the clerk. £100 had been raised from the sale of produce. It was suggested that the monies be used to facilitate an allotment plot for local schools, clerk to establish potential demand. Alternative suggestions for its expenditure to be sought from the tenants who supplied the produce.

- Recommended**
- 1 To note and approve the report**
 - 2 Clerk to contact Beech Hyde and St Helens Schools to establish their interest in allotments**

1211-10 PLOT REVIEW & BEST ALLOTMENT

It was noted that plot reviews had been minuted under the appropriate allotment field reports. Continued monitoring would occur.

