

Allotments Committee

7 October 2010, 20.00h

Present	Councillors	S Walford G Clark T Reason J Turner	Chairman
		M Cheale G Copland M Wade S Young	
		Julia Warren	Clerk to Council
		Press	0
		Public	1

1384-10 Apologies & Substitutions

All councillors present.

1385-10 Questions from the Public

Mr Habib spoke of rubbish, such as old baths, apparently unused, on Hitchens Field. It was agreed that the committee would look into these assertions, but hoped that as skips had been ordered for 16 October any problem was temporary.

1386-10 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Turner declared a personal interest and advised that she rented an allotment plot on Glebe Field

1387-10 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2010 were approved.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2010 as a true and fair record, and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

1388-10 Baxendale Report

Mr Copland presented his report which had been previously circulated. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the widow of the tenant of plot 34 with condolences and enquire if she wished to retain the plot from April 2011. The tenant of plot 35 was to be contacted, reminded of the allotment rules of cultivation and asked for his timescale to address the poor state of cultivation of the plot.

Concerns were also raised regarding the infilling of the gap in the hedge. This drainage 'grip' no longer permitted pedestrian access;

concerns were raised that the installation of a pipe would detrimentally encourage flood water into the allotments. This matter was to be raised with the County Council Highways officer.

- Recommendation to Parish Council**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 Clerk to write to plot 34 regarding continuance of tenancy**
 - 3 Clerk to write to plot 35 requiring that the allotment plot be acceptably cultivated**
 - 4 Clerk to discuss flooding issues with Hertfordshire Highways officer**

1389-10 Glebe Report, including Allotment Representation

Mr Young presented Mr Watson's report which had previously been circulated. Mr Watson thanked the chairman for accompanying him around the Glebe Field. It was agreed that Plot 40 be halved and the tenant offered choice of which half. Plot 42 would also be split in two and the tenant asked to remove the rubbish prior to choosing the 5 pole plot. The tenants of plots 32, 44 and 45 had made little progress and would be advised that their tenancy would not be renewed in April. Plot 32 would be asked to remove the shed prior to the end of March 2011. Virtually no progress had been made on Plot 6 despite ongoing encouragement and promises by the tenant to cultivate. The tenant was to be asked to vacate immediately.

Plot 30 was not appropriately cultivated and was to be sent a letter requiring the plot to be brought up to standard prior to consideration to re-let.

Consideration was given to the donations received on the Allotments Stall at Village Day. Much of the produce had come from Glebe allotments. It was agreed that this money be given to the Grove House Hospice in St Albans.

It was reported that Mr Watson was moving from the Village to be closer to family, leaving a vacancy for Glebe Field representative. It was agreed that the Clerk write to all Glebe Field tenants asking for a volunteer. One expression of interest had been received.

- Recommendation to Parish Council**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 Clerk to write to tenants on plots 40 and 42 advising that their plots would be halved**
 - 3 Tenant of Plot 42 to clear the rubbish away**
 - 4 Clerk to advise tenants of plots 32, 44,45 that their tenancies would not be renewed in April 2011**
 - 5 Tenant of Plot 32 to remove the shed prior to end of March 2011**
 - 6 Tenant of Plot 6 to vacate forthwith, Plot to be reallocated.**
 - 7 Tenant to Plot 30 to be reminded of the regulations to appropriately cultivate the plot**
 - 8 Donations received at Village Day on the**

Allotments Stall to be given to the Grove House Hospice in St Albans

- 9 Mr Watson to be thanked for being Glebe representative.**
- 10 Clerk to write to all Glebe tenants seeking a volunteer Field representative**

1390-10 Hitchens Report

Mr Wade presented his report, previously circulated to all committee members. Most of the plots were in good cultivation, boundary issues had been addressed and just one plot remained un delineated. Plots 7, 12, 14, 56, and 79 were in a state of neglect. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to confirm that they were still wanted, and if so to confirm that the standard and extent of cultivation should be improved. A letter with a tear-off response form was agreed for ease of reply. It was further agreed that the tenant of plot 64, a mainly grass allotment, be asked to cultivate it appropriately (75%) by the end of February.

Complaints had been received regarding cockerel crowing. The offending bird was alleged to be on Plot 32. The observation that cockerels are territorial and others in nearby Glebe Field was made. It was agreed that the regulations be amended to prohibit cockerels. The tenant of Plot 32 was to be asked to remove his bird.

Thanks were extended to Mr Barton for mowing the grass and clearing brambles in the communal area. A future rota would be drawn up by the field representative.

It was confirmed that the skips would be delivered for 16 October, coinciding with the CMS led hedge clearance and tidying.

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| Recommendation to Parish Council | 1 | To note the report |
| | 2 | Clerk to write to the tenants of plots 7, 12, 14, 56, and 79 which were in a state of neglect to confirm whether the tenants wished to continue and if so for confirmation of improvement in extent and standard of cultivation |
| | 3 | Clerk to write to Plot 64 to require appropriate cultivation by the end of February 2011 |
| | 4 | To note the complaints about cockerel crowing |
| | 5 | To amend allotment regulations to in future prohibit cockerels |
| | 6 | Clerk to write asking for the cockerel on Plot 32 to be removed |
| | 7 | To thank Mr Barton for mowing and clearing the communal area |
| | 8 | Allotment representative to draw up a rota for mowing and keeping the communal area clear |

Post meeting note

Council Minute 1455-10 (28 October) approved the above report and recommendations of the allotments Committee excluding cockerels

1391-10 Folly Report

Mrs Cheale's report on the Folly allotments, circulated previously, was discussed. It was agreed that the tenants of plots 31 and 33 would be written to to tidy the communal paths and reinstate their boundaries. The tenant of Plot 8, whose allotment had become somewhat overgrown was to be advised that this was most appropriately pruned in the winter season. A reminder to remove the shrub was to be sent to Plot 16 stating that if this was not actioned by 28 February 2011 it would be reallocated from 1 April. The Chairman was to investigate the large hedge adjacent to plots 4 and 6 and report back

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| Recommendation
to Parish Council | 1 | To note the report |
| | 2 | Clerk to write to tenants of plots 31 & 33 requiring them to tidy the communal paths and reinstate their boundaries |
| | 3 | Clerk to write to tenant of plot 8 suggesting that winter is a good time to prune shrubs |
| | 4 | Clerk to write to plot 16 to remove the shrub by 28 February or the tenancy would not be renewed |
| | 5 | Chairman to investigate the large hedge adjacent to plots 4 and 6 |

1392-10 BUDGET REVIEW

The expenditure report against budget April – September together with a record of water charges from 2008 to date had been circulated. Members reviewed the budget report noting that bulk of expenditure so far was for water. Concerns were raised over the size of the water bills, these being much higher than in previous years. One possibility, to be eliminated was a leak. It was agreed that field representatives would check the water meters whilst not in use.

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| Recommendation
to Parish Council | 1 | To note the report |
| | 2 | Allotment representatives to check water meters in respect of water leakage |

1393-10 REQUESTS

A request to improve the support to the north gate to the Glebe Field which had become loose had been received. It was agreed that the contractor be asked to fix this.

Mr Strachan had requested that vehicular access to the north end of the Glebe Field be restricted not least as his plot was used as a turning circle. It was agreed that he could rope off his plot to delineate its boundaries and discourage vehicular access. He further asked that the notice board be relocated. It was agreed that this expense could not be justified. His observations regarding electric fences were noted. Members noted that the Health and Safety Executive's advice had been

