

Allotments Committee

6 January 2011, 20.00h

Present	Councillors	S Walford	Chairman
		D Hills	Substitute
		J Turner	
		G Copland	
		R Strachan	
		M Wade	
		Julia Warren	Clerk to Council
		Press	0
		Public	1

1582-11 Apologies & Substitutions

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Clark and Reason (personal reasons) and Mrs Cheale . Councillor Hills substituted

1583-11 Questions from the Public

None

1584-11 Declarations of Interest

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

1585-11 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2010 were approved. It was noted that the Allotments Committee's recommendations at Minute 1390-10 regarding cockerels had not been approved by Full Council

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2010 as a true and fair record, and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

1586-11 Baxendale Report

Mr Copland presented his report which had been previously circulated. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the tenant of plot 35 who had failed to cultivate the allotment since the previous meeting and letter to remind of the rules asking for cultivation or termination at the end of the March 2011. The widow of the tenant of plot 34 had advised that she did not wish to retain the plot but would like to remove personal items such as leeks prior to relinquishing it. Mr Copland offered to assist.

Mr Copland reported that following works to improve drainage a water

meter had been exposed which he would investigate.

It was agreed that the written 'office update' on responses to communications – letters and offers of plots be circulated by email prior to the agenda for meetings including o allotment representatives. New tenants would be further encouraged to permit their contact details to be given to allotment representatives. This would facilitate representatives in advising of the availability of such as manure and skips, and also contact for any more specific matters.

**Recommendation 1 To note the report
to Parish Council 2 Clerk to write to plot 35 regarding
continuance of tenancy
3 Clerk to provide update report on
allotments to committee and allotment
representatives prior to the agenda issue.
Any further update would be given at the
meeting**

1587-11 Glebe Report, including Allotment Representation

It was reported that Mr Watson, Allotment representative for Glebe Field had now moved from the Village. A replacement representative had been sought (Minute 1389-10) and two people initially came forward. Mr Young had stepped down in favour of Mr Strachan who was welcomed to the meeting and thanked for filling this position.

Mr Strachan reported that there had been no major changes since the October meeting.

**Recommendation 1 To note the report
to Parish Council 2 To thank Mr Strachan for becoming
Glebe Field representative**

1588-11 Hitchens Report

Mr Wade presented his report, previously circulated to all committee members. The hedge management session had been very successful and the hedge between Glebe and Hitchens fields rejuvenating well. Recent snow had limited allotment work. It was acknowledged that the committee's recommendation (Minute 1390-10) to prohibit cockerels on allotments had not been received favourably by Council and no changes to the livestock rules made. Concerns remained regarding the crowing cockerel.

The location of the water meter remained unknown, Clerk to contact Veolia.

The Clerk reported that the neighbourhood PCSO had recovered a blunderbuss prominently positioned in Hitchens Field. Firearms section would be checking its safety and thereafter it would be taken to Harpenden Police Station.

Recommendation 1 To note the report

to Parish Council 2 Clerk to contact Veolia to establish the location of the water meter.

1589-11 Folly Report

Mrs Cheale's report on the Folly allotments, circulated previously, was discussed. It was confirmed that the shrubs on plot 16 must be removed as agreed at minute 1391-10 or the plot would be reallocated from 1 April.

Recommendation to Parish Council To note the report

1590-11 Budget Review

The expenditure report against budget April – December had been circulated. It was agreed that allotment representatives would report back on the plot number markers to assess which needed replacement. A quotation would be sought to fix the damaged gate and fencing of Glebe South horse field. Mr Carter to be approached regarding planting of the hazel copse on Hitchens (Minute 1086-10). Consideration would be given to extending the water point north wards in Glebe Field. Clerk to seek advice from the Water Board

Recommendation to Parish Council

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 Allotment representatives to audit the state of plot numbers and notify those requiring replacement**
- 3 Clerk to obtain quotation to fix the damaged gate and fence to Glebe South grazing field**
- 4 Mr Carter to be approached regarding planting the hazel copse on Hitchens**
- 5 Clerk to approach Water Board for advice on increasing number of taps**

1591-11 Requests

No requests were received which had not be otherwise dealt with above. It was agreed that cultivation of Plot 6 Glebe, monitored through 2010 and discussed most recently at Minute 1389-10, was not satisfactory and no further correspondence was required. The plot would be relet from 1 April 2011

Recommendation to Parish Council

- 1 To note the report.**
- 2 No further correspondence necessary regarding Glebe plot 6. Plot to be relet from 1 April 2011**

1592-11 Waiting Lists

It was reported that the waiting lists were:

Folly Fields	0
Baxendale	1 (with one person having been given forward notice)

for plot 34)
Hitchens/Glebe 6 (including 3 people from whom a response was
awaited)

1593-11 Budget 2011-12

A proposed budget for 2011-12 was recommended to include provision for water improvements, £5760.

Allotment rent had been set at £2.50 per pole for 2011-12, and recommended no increase for 2012-13.

Grazing fields, 2011-12 agreed at

Baxendale	£1 015
Glebe North	£ 925
Glebe South	£ 730
Folly	£ 925

Recommendation to Budget recommendation for 2011-12 as
Parish Council above.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.20h.

Dated this day of 2011
Chairman