

Allotments Committee

8 October 2009, 20.00h

Present Councillors:	S Walford	Chairman
	G Clark	
	T Reason	
	J Turner	
	M Cheale	
	G Copland	
	M Green	
	E Habib	
	Julia Warren	Parish Clerk
	Press	0

583-09 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Messrs D Watson, M Wade and M Wing.

584-09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Turner declared a personal interest, as an allotment plot holder in discussions about Glebe Field

585-09 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Green spoke of his concerns regarding the tone of the field representative's report sent to the previous meeting. Councillors confirmed that this had been addressed at the July meeting and representatives asked to keep field reports factual and relating to the allotment field each represented (Minute 431-09 refers). Field Representative reports, written by non elected persons who it was acknowledged provided a valuable support to the committee, would be circulated to committee members through the Parish Council Office. Members understood that the July Glebe Field report had been regarded as inflammatory and apologies were accepted by Mr Green. He would confer this to his neighbours.

Mr Habib asked how and whether field representatives changed and was informed that few individuals volunteered to assist.

The matter of bonfires was also raised and the rules reiterated. Simplistically, personal bonfires of allotment generated rubbish could be lit Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings (08.00 -12.00 hours) giving due regard to weather conditions etc, and at other times only if permitted by the Parish Council. The good bonfire guidelines (appendix 1 to the rules and regulations) and guide to regulations had been placed on all allotment noticeboards, Parish Council website and available from the Parish Council Office on request

Resolved: Clerk to write to Mr Green as spokesperson for Necton Road residents

586-09 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2009 were approved.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July as a true and fair record, and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

587-09 BAXENDALE REPORT

This had been received from Mr Copland and had been circulated.

It was agreed that the hedge between plot 20 and the bridleway would be cut to approximately 6' high and the adjacent 'christmas tree' removed. The hedge gap informal entrance would be blocked off using hawthorn. Drainage in the Slype was noted to be a continuing problem, the Clerk asked to ascertain progress by the Highways Authority.

The allotment regulations pinned to the notice board needed replacement. Concern was voiced that drawing pins did not adhere well to the board material, a staple gun was suggested for more permanent notices. An alternative medium was suggested for future consideration.

Resolved:

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 That the hedge between plot 20 and bridleway be pruned to approximately 6'high and conifer removed.**
- 3 That the informal entrance from the Slype be planted up with hawthorn**
- 4 That the Clerk speak to Highways and report back on progress regarding poor drainage in the Slype**
- 5 That a fresh set of allotment regulations be placed on the notice board**

588-09 BAXENDALE – NEED FOR ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS

It was reported that 5 people were on the waiting list for Baxendale allotments with the possibility that one might become available in the foreseeable future. It was not clear whether some of the adjacent land currently used for grazing was fully in use. Members agreed that the Clerk should meet on site with the lease holder to discuss a change of use for a small parcel of land on the southeast side.

Resolved: Clerk to meet with lease holder of Baxendale grazing to discuss usage

589-09 HITCHENS REPORT

Mr Wade's report had been received and circulated. It was noted that all

plottolders adjoining Necton Road had been advised in writing that plot marking/redefining would occur. No feedback had been received from those plots already remarked. Mr Green's offer to assist Mr Wade in further marking up was accepted.

It was further noted that tree removal was scheduled for November. The request for a skip was acknowledged but action deferred to the spring pending greater demand.

- Resolved:**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 To accept Mr Green's offer to assist Mr Wade in delineating plots**
 - 3 To consider skip hire in the spring**

590-09 FOLLY REPORT

Mrs Cheale reported on the state of cultivation of the various plots. Councillors agreed to meet on site to confirm those plots which failed to meet regulation standards and would thus need a warning letter due to poor cultivation. It was anticipated that some plots may be relinquished at the end of the season.

The Clerk confirmed that plot numbers for Folly Fields had been produced but due to the lack of rain and hard ground had yet to be installed.

- Resolved:**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 That following a site visit by councillors letters be sent to plots 4, 6, and 8 noting that these had been poorly cultivated all season and should be relinquished. Plots 10 and 12 contravened regulations with too much garden shrubbery and a letter reminding plot 31 of the need to cultivate and drawing attention to the clause which stated that subletting was not permitted.**
 - 3 That a wayleave letter be sent to the occupier of the house previously lived in by plotholder 12 advising that the rear gate onto allotment plot 12 attracted wayleave but that no right of access was permissible onto land rented to a third party. The solution perhaps would be to block off the gate and confirm this to the Parish Council.**

591-09 GLEBE REPORT

Mr Watson's report had been previously circulated. It was agreed that the silver birch bordering Hitchens and Glebe Fields would be felled, this to be requested with the other trees previously identified (Minute 589-09).

The gate and padlocking thereof was discussed, the committee agreed to maintain the status quo – no change for welding or different chains. It was noted that the gate was incorrectly hung and would not smoothly open. Agreed to seek volunteer assistance to resolve this.

The allotments were in general all well cultivated but the waiting list

growing. It was agreed to obtain an estimate to plough the uncultivated area for consideration at the next meeting

- Resolved:**
- 1 To note the report**
 - 2 Clerk to raise an order to fell and apply stump killer to the silver birch bordering Hitchens and Glebe Fields**
 - 3 To make no changes to the gate locking process**
 - 4 To seek volunteer assistance to properly rehang and ensure the proper movement of the gate**
 - 5 Clerk to obtain a quotation to plough the uncultivated area between the new allotments and the Glebe South horse field.**

592-09 PRIVATE USE OF PARISH LAND

It was reported that the Chairmen of Allotments Committee and Council had met with a member of the public who had been utilising the Glebe land. A response was awaited from her.

- Resolved:** **To note the report**

593-09 WORK PROGRESS REPORTS & REQUESTS

A number of requests had been received and were discussed, permission given for sheds, traditional green houses and chicken coops as per the allotment regulations.

It was noted that new tenants had taken on the horse grazing and a request had been received for two horse shelters/stables plus tool shed. Members discussed the field size and their responsibility to maintain the land. It was agreed that the field size was appropriate for 2 ponies or equivalent. Permission was given for two pony shelters plus tool shed of agreed dimensions on a non permanent base.

- Resolved:**
- 1 Clerk to write to Mrs Abram giving permission for a shelter for two ponies to house animals less than 14 hands high, plus a tool shed on a non permanent base.**
 - 2 Clerk to write to tenants approving chicken coops, small traditional sheds and green houses.**

594-09 SECURITY

Police patrols continued to surveil the allotments. Police advice was to keep sheds unlocked and that valuable items should not be stored on the allotments. It was reported that the police hoped to provide UV marker pens to allotment holders to mark equipment. Security had been discussed under Minute 591-09 in particular with reference to the idea of alarming sheds. It was considered that these may create a noise nuisance and these would not be permitted.

In the event of theft or damage tenants had been advised to report the incident direct to the police and obtain a crime reference number, then to advise the parish council.

Resolved:

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 Not to permit alarms of allotment sheds**

595-09 WAYLEAVES

It was reported that the wayleaves known to the Office had all been requested for 2009. Mrs Cheale provided a list which supplemented this for Folly Fields. It was not clear whether a gate existed giving access from 'The Fold' on Sheepcote Lane.

Resolved: Clerk to request wayleaves as identified.

596-09 WAITING LISTS

It was reported that the waiting lists stood at:

Baxendale	5
Folly Fields	2
Glebe/Hitchens	9
Grazing	3

Resolved: To note the report

597-09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 10 December, 8pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 22.00h.

Dated this day of 2009
Chairman