

ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Committee held at 7.45 pm on Thursday, 21 July 2005 at The Institute. Councillor Fisk, presided over Councillors Blessett, Thomas and the clerk. No members of the public were present.

001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

003 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2005, having previously been circulated, were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the acting Chair.

004 REVIEW OF BUDGET AND SPENDING IN FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

The Clerk reported that spending to date was in the region of £1800 out of a total budget of £3000. It was noted that the supply of water to date for the bowzers was more than budgeted but that it had been difficult to budget for an unknown quantity. Also the recent very hot and dry weather had resulted in extra water being required. However it was also noted that rental income would be forthcoming in October.

005 GENERAL PROGRESS AND MAINTENANCE OF ALLOTMENT GARDENS

It was noted that following observations and request from the Allotments Association, that the layout of the gateway could be improved by resetting the gate and that there was insufficient room for larger cars and those with trailers. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to **recommend** to full council to reset the gate later in the year subject to costing but that it is anticipated costs will be low.

Cllr Fisk reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the Allotments Association and that they had requested permission to cut the grass verges themselves rather than the council. Members were happy for this to be done and noted that the arrangement could revert if necessary.

006 REVIEW OF WATER SUPPLY AND USAGE

Further to discussions under 004, members discussed the water supply. Cllr Fisk reported that one allotment holder was investigating costs for a mains supply as he considered that it may be possible to obtain a supply from a more direct route than was previously thought possible by Anglian Water. Members agreed that in principal mains water would be preferable and that re exploring the costs could be considered if negotiations with Anglian Water proved considerably lower than their original quote.

007 NON COMPLIANCE WITH TENANCY AGREEMENTS IN RELATION TO UPKEEP OF ALLOTMENT GARDEN

The clerk reported that she had written to those members who had not maintained or started work on their plot reminding them of the terms of their agreement. It was noted that despite this action, some had made no reply and the clerk asked for guidance on the next action. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to recommend to full council that those people should now be given a 3 week period to bring the garden to a suitable standard and if this is not possible would subsequently lose their tenancy.

008 BEST ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to recommend to full council that a competition for the Best Allotment be held and that the prize would be a years free rent. It was agreed that it would be judged on the basis of productivity, water saving, composting and general tidiness by someone from outside the village but with association and experience with allotment gardens. It was noted that a suitable judge was available from the gardens at Langtoft and that Cllr Fisk would speak to him in relation to this competition.

009 DATE OF NEXT MEETING- 22 September 2005

TBC

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.40 pm.