

Minutes of the meeting of the **Deeping St James Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee** held on **Thursday, 16 June 2011** at 6.30 p.m. at the Allotments.

Present: Councillors Baxter, Blessett, Pagella and Stevens and the Clerk S Ashby.
Also present were representatives of the Allotments Assn – Alan Bulmer and Geoff Hurst.

1.12 To elect a Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Blessett, seconded by Cllr Pagella and agreed that Cllr Baxter would be Chairman for the year.

2.12 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pearce and Thompson

3.12 To receive declarations of interest, if any.

There were none

4.12 To adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2011.

These were agreed.

5.12 Matters arising not considered elsewhere on the agenda.

The Clerk reported that the bench had been installed at Thackers Way Children's Play area and that trees, hedge plants, owl boxes and bat boxes had all been delivered, planted and installed in February 2011 and the grant from LCC had been paid in full.

6.12 To inspect the Allotments and the Allotment site (including the entrance gate and boardwalk on Plot 32) and make recommendations to Council.

- **Entrance gate** – it was agreed that the AA would look at alternatives / replacements for the gate and report back to the Clerk. It was also suggested that the side bars were replaced with close board fencing for additional security.
- It was agreed that the AA could cut back hedging near the entrance to provide a better view for exiting the site.
- **Plot No 5** – it was agreed the Clerk would contact the plot holder to see whether the work that had been started would be completed and what the future intentions are.
- **Plots 7 & 36** – It was agreed that no action would be taken at present providing that the plot holder gave up one plot later in the year (September) and moved plantings from one to the other.
- **Boardwalk** – it was agreed that the AA could replace this with bark / wood chippings up to £150.00 in consultation with the Clerk, and that they would replace a couple of the broken boards to make safe in the interim.
- **Plot 30** – It was agreed that a notice to quit should be served, but that this could be reconsidered if needed.
- It was noted that a number of the new hedge plants from the previous year had not survived and that replacements were needed.

7.12 To receive any comments from the Allotments association and make any recommendations to Council

The AA issues had mainly been dealt with under 6.12 above.

The annual Allotments Show will take place on 14 August 2011 and Cllr Baxter agreed to be the judge for the best allotment plot.

A request was made to receive a template copy of the latest tenancy agreement.

8.12 To receive a report on the waiting list and arrangements for the forthcoming renewal.

The waiting list for DSJ residents numbered 22 with the oldest requests being April 2010. There are 28 shown on the non DSJ waiting list dating back to 2006.

Renewals will be sent out in towards the end of August along with details of any rent increase from 2012 if applicable.

9.12 In light of the proposed increase in Rent Payable to Hall Meadow Estate from April 2012, to consider whether an increase in Allotments Rents is required and to make recommendations to Council

Members considered whether an increase in rent should be made to recover the additional rent payable to the landlords or to leave the rent as it stood due to the existing financial climate.

No decision was made and this was deferred to be considered by full Council.

10.12 To consider whether the picnic bench at the Millennium Wood should be relocated (Cllr Stevens)

It was agreed that the bench should be moved to the front of the Millennium Wood.

11.12 To receive details of a complaint about Footpath no. 14 being diverted and no longer signposted.

Details of a complaint about the footpath sign being removed and the path's "unofficial" diversion around the garden where the footpath originally went were given by the Clerk. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact LCC to push for the re-instatement and retention of the original path.

12.12 To consider a request for a dog bin along Spalding Road.

A previous spare bin had been placed on Linchfield Road. A further spare bin could be placed along Spalding Road and it was suggested it was placed near the bus stop at Frognall near the footpath to The Rose.

13.12 Date of next meeting 15 September 2011 (PRECEPT MEETING).