

WOODCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Allotment Trustee meeting

MINUTES of the Allotment Trustee meeting held in the Function Room, Village Hall, Woodcote
Wednesday 17th February 2016 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Chairman	Mr. R. Peirce
Vice Chairman	
	Mr. M. Smith
	Mr. A. Crockett.
	Mr. D. Booth
	Dr. P. Sudbury
	Mr. B. Williams
	Mrs. D. Hadaway
	Mr. R. Lewin
	Mrs. S. McGurk
Parish Clerk	Ms. Jenny Welham

Present: Rick Brightman Chairman of Allotment Stewardship Committee.

1. To receive apologies for absence.
Mr. G. Botting.

2. Review of Finance

The Parish Clerk who administers the finance for the Allotments gave an overview of the Accounts year to date. The payments do not exceed the receipts and there will be a reasonable amount to carry forward into the new financial year beginning 1st April 2016, this amount has built up over the last few financial years.

Total payments year to date include Water Rates, Management Fee and Skip £1094.

Total receipts year to date which include rentals and interest from invested funds £1584.65. (rentals total £1400 for all plots some rentals recorded in previous FY as plot holders pay prior to April 1st.)
Carry Forward amount financial year to date £3885.

All plots are currently let and there is not a waiting list.

The Clerk suggested that advertising of the plots resumes, at renewal for April 1st there can be one or two tenants who do not renew.

Given the healthy position of the finances, the Trustees all agreed not to increase the rental amount from £0.25p per square metre for the new financial year 2016/17. However, they did state that the rentals do need to be reviewed year on year against costs to ensure that the deficient position that occurred 2 years ago is not repeated.

3. Allotment Stewardship Committee Update.

Rick Brightman gave an update stating that in the main most of the plots are kept in good tidy order. Small maintenance and repair jobs have been carried out by the ASC over the year.

The Chairman asked if there were any pending large maintenance items that needed attention.

Rick advised that the closure post on the main gate is loose and probably rotten at the bottom and will need replacing. Also the fencing to the front approx. 12 feet of the post and rail needs replacing.

The plot holders take the stones from the soil on their plots and use them as aggregate in the main entrance, Rick suggested that a one of load of aggregate would be a good solution.

The chairman asked the Clerk to obtain quotations for this work.

4. Other Matters arising

The matter of the rear chain link fence was discussed. The youths who play football often climb over this fence to retrieve their footballs and the fence is now damaged in places with holes.

Whether the entire length is replaced was discussed, but the nature of the chain link makes it easier for people to stretch it and cut it to enable purchase to climb it.

The Village Green Committee had obtained a quotation for a full palisade fence with double gates which was expensive in excess of £7K.

The matter of the gate/s was discussed, during the summer the VGC store the goal posts at the top of the allotments and use the gate to get the posts in and out and also to access the side of their shed.

During the cricket season the goals cannot be easily stored beside the shed as the cricket equipment is then difficult to access.

The Clerk with Cllr. Smith had a contractor to look at the fencing last year and they recommended the option of a “mesh” fence the same as around the primary school. The height of the fence was not confirmed, Clerk to action check the quote and circulate the detail.

The Chairman thanked Rick and the Allotment Stewardship Committee for their commitment and hard work and all the tenants who keep an allotment and make it a pleasant environment.

Actions pending;

Clerk to obtain quotes for the maintenance jobs suggested by RB to present to Trustees.

Clerk and RB to resume the advertising of the allotments.

Clerk to follow up the fencing quote.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

