

## ALLOTMENT MINUTES

12<sup>TH</sup> November 2013

8.15pm Rippingale Village Hall

Present:- Trevor Lerner, Andrew Flatters, Angela Adams, David Knibbs, Julie Lydon, Graham Ashworth, Phil Read, Doreen & Stuart Hilton, Paul Watkins, Paul Caston, John Scholes, Iain Middleton, Eva Patrick.

Apologies:- Pat & Bill Morton, Phil Palmer, Steve & Briony Harrison, Richard Grech, Nige Adams.

The minutes of the last meeting were read & signed.

Matters arising – Phil Read offered his Lawn Mower for use on the allotments to save us having to buy one, Thanks were given to him for his kind offer.

Brian Cook donated his old lawn mower to be sold and the money raised will go to allotment funds. Paul Watkins offered to look at it and mend it if needed.

The New Notice Board has been made & erected next to the car park by Graham Ashworth & Ian Flatters , thanks were given for their hard work.

Trevor said he would remove the rest of the old windows at the allotments as well as the metal barrel stands. The tables stored in the metal shed are used at the open day.

The Insurance is still being looked into as we may need to have it to cover Public Liability as well as insuring the Mowers & Strimmer etc.

There was no correspondence.

Parish Council Agreement:- A copy of the draft agreement has been sent to all allotment holders for them to read & comment on. Paul Caston mentioned that in 2.5 of the agreement it says tenancy is only for people on the Rippingale Electoral Roll yet in the Rules of the Allotment Gardens for Tenants it says plot holders can be in the Parish/Community/Neighbourhood, this will be looked into.

The agreement also mentions The Society in parts then Group in others.

Graham felt that the waiting list should be looked at and maybe newcomers should be given plots before those on the list who already had a plot. Doreen didn't feel this would be fair.

It was suggested by Eva that subs should be paid per plot rather than per plot holder so we wouldn't lose out by someone having more than one plot.

Graham also mentioned that in 2.15 of the agreement it says the maximum size of new structures should be 2m x 3m, as some people have polytunnels already bigger than this how would it affect them?

Also need to sort out if people are allowed a shed+greenhouse=polytunnel as those with more than one smaller plot are able to have 2 or 3 of these where those with full size plot are only allowed one.

It was felt that the Parish Council are pushing us to make a decision before the end of the year but we need to take our time to make sure we make the right choice whether to go ahead with the running of the allotments from the Parish Council - the advantage would be we could apply for our own Grants but the disadvantages would be Cutting of Hedges ourselves, Collecting Rents & having to pay all Expenses occurring in the future.

Paul Caston was concerned that the agreement has come about at the time we are getting the additional land and that the cost of putting in a drainage ditch if needed would have to be paid for from allotment funds, Trevor said that the Parish Council were never going to pay for the ditch anyway, we would have more scope to run the allotments ourselves as we could dictate what rents were payable. He also said that lots of other allotment were run this way but we needed to decide if it is what we want.

Steve Harrison, although not at the meeting, did send an e mail to say he would be willing to help in any way he could with it. Phil suggested speaking to the NSALG about the agreement. This will be an on going item.

Open Gardens:- These will be held on the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> April 2014 it was agreed to have the allotments open with maybe a BBQ & Tea Tent as this year.

The NSALG Membership is due again at a cost of £60.00 it was agreed to renew for another year.

Weed Control: Graham commented that there were an abundance of dock leaves on some plots and this needed to be tackled by the plot holders before they spread around to neighbouring plots. We need to be vigilant & dig them out . Graham will speak to the relevant plot holders and a notice will be put on the new board.

A new Allotment Funds & Social Committee will be set up lead by Graham, Angela, Julie & Nigel to organise allotment social & fund raising events with the purpose of building funds for the allotments & plot holders benefit.

A successful Bonfire Night was held this year at the allotments again for allotmentees & the families & close friends, about 50 people attended.

The social side is important as well as fund raising events. It was decided to continue with the monthly BBQ's, further idea's are in the pipeline.

A.O.B.

Phil Palmer has kindly set up a Facebook Page for the allotments , thank you to him. This is a forum where allotment holders can chat, post photo's and generally keep in touch & swap ideas. An e mail has been sent out to everyone so it is hoped that more people will join in.

It was agreed to hold a Christmas BBQ again at the Allotments on 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.30pm. Angela to let plot holder know about it.

Angela asked Trevor if he could provide a list of the Allotment Assets, both for Insurance purposes & so we all know what is available for use as well as where it is stored.

Angela asked if the tables in the tin shed were needed, Trevor said that they are used at the allotment open days. If the tin shed is needed in the future then a new storage area will be needed for the tables.

Trevor suggested that we stop people driving around the allotments on the grass area over the winter period while the area is very wet. Graham agreed to tape off the areas & put up some signs.

Volunteers will be needed next year to help with the communal grass cutting as Trevor has decided he no longer has time to do it due to work commitments. Maybe a rota could be drawn up.

Angela will organise the dates for next years meetings & let everyone know. The Village Hall is available on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm so meetings will be arranged then.

Meeting Closed 9.15pm