

ALLOTMENTS MEETING 18TH FEBRUARY 2014
7.30PM AT VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Graham Ashworth, Angela & Nigel Adams, Julie Lydon, Pat & Bill Morton, Trevor Larner, Phil Read, Steve & Bryony Harrison, Andrew Flatters.

APOLOGIES: Phil Palmer, Richard Grech, John Scholes, Eva Patrick, Doreen & Stu Hilton.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read. Trevor asked for it to be that one item regarding the Parish Council Agreement was incorrect in that he did not say we would be able to set the rents but that we would be able to combine them with the subs so collecting together.

The rest of the Minutes were agreed as a true record & signed by the chairman.

Proposed by Julie Lydon, seconded by Paul Watkins.

CORRESPONDENCE: We were given some flyers from the Police with regard to Garden Shed Security, these were handed out and a copy has been posted on the Allotment notice board. The Insurance Policy has also now been received, Steve Harrison asked for it to be confirmed that this covered individual plot holders and was confirmed that it does.

TREASURERS REPORT: Income from Subscriptions so far	£200.00 Banked + £30.00 Cash
Expenditure Rent for Memorial Plot 36	£4.84
Insurance Costs	£195.50
Petty Cash held	£255.05

Balance in the Bank as at 18/02/14	£1586.00 + £30.00 subs to bank
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Nigel asked if we need to have so much Petty Cash & it was agreed to only hold £100.00 in cash

9 People's Subscriptions are still outstanding, Angela will contact them.

It was also mentioned we should change the date of payment in the Constitution from November to January with payments due by end January.

CONSTITUTION: The Parish Council have sent some recommendations to be included in the new constitution. These will be looked at and discussed by the subcommittee, once a draft constitution has been written then it will be forwarded to the plot holders for approval. Andrew Flatters asked if we have to agree to the Parish Councils proposals and was assured that as these were just suggestions and not binding.

PARISH COUNCIL AGREEMENT: The sub Committee had a meeting a couple of weeks ago to discuss a new agreement. Several points were made during the meeting which we need to collate together we will then arrange a meeting with the Parish Council representatives to discuss the way forward. Again when a draft agreement has been reached it will be forwarded to the plot holders for final approval. We need to clarify some points regarding the cutting of the boundary hedge and the maintenance of the surrounding dykes & what/where SKDC are responsible for.

ROADWAYS: The huge amount of rain we have had recently has made the allotment roads very wet & boggy . The decision was made to close of the roadways around the allotments until they dry up. Graham has roped off the areas and put up signs.

Suggestions were asked regarding a way forward as some of the plots are standing in water, should we seek professional help?

Graham mentioned filling in the dips in the roadways with rubble, covering with soil and grassing over or maybe covering in some sort of rubber matting. Paul Watkins said this would be costly with the matting being about £40 for a 6ft x 4ft piece. Phil Read mentioned he had seen gravel at £24 a ton. Graham also mentioned digging a drainage ditch from the Bonfire plot down to the roadway drains to try & alleviate the problem.

It was agreed to prevent vehicles every winter from driving around the plots this would then hopefully prevent ruts forming which cause the summer grass cutting a problem.

Bryony asked if the Parish Council were still involved in finding a solution to the problem.

MANURE HEAP: We are not sure which is old manure and which is new as it seems to have become mixed up. We need to speak to someone with a digger to push all the remaining manure up to one end so we can partition off into 3 bays marking each out so the people bring the manure know where we would like it putting. The Manure comes from Jean Redding via Paul Watkins & Burtt's Farm, Phil Read will speak to Sean Charlton to ask if he would be able to help move the manure and will also speak to Burtt's farm regarding supply.

A.O.B. Rats seem to becoming a problem on the allotments with lots living in compost bins. Whether this is just a problem because of the very wet conditions we have at the moment or if it will get worse is something we need to keep a watch on. Paul Watkins offered to go round the allotments to assess the problem and report back.

Graham thanked the Secretary for all her work & printing.

The Monthly BBQ's will start again with the Open Gardens Event on the weekend of 12/13th April when the allotments will be open to the public.

Next meeting 13th May 2014 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Meeting Closed 8.45pm

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