

Hereford Allotment & Leisure Gardeners

Site Rep Meeting Minutes

Date: 6th January 2020

Attendees: Roland Brown (RB), Tasha Bennett (TB), Alan Evans (AE), Malcolm Watkin (MW), Sue Rudd (SR), Nigel Davies (ND), John Rosser (JR), Tony Ennis (TE), Alan Williams (AW)

Apologies: David Fletcher (DF) Carol Evans (CE), Derek Mumford (DM), Brian Brookes (BB), Vivien Webster (VW), Chris Yapp (CY)

Previous Minutes: All agreed

Chair: Nigel Davies (ND)

Reports:

Ash Avenue:

- Water Reading: Turned off
- Vandals had been in the toilet. Door has keypad lock on but hadn't been shut properly by person who had used it. SR will tidy up but will purchase a new toilet seat and additional hand towels, approval given by VS to purchase. VS requested that any vandalism, theft is reported to the Police, TB advised this can be reported online as well as calling 101.
- Plots looking OK.

College:

- Water Reading: Water off
- All quiet.
- Requesting plot holders to keep paths in between plots cut and tidy and number plot numbers.
- Rubbish requires cleaning up, ND will follow up.

Corporation:

- Water Reading: Water off
- One plot has put second shed on plot, and two rows of apple trees, DM has followed up.

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- Another plot not been worked, a suggestion was made to plot holder to give half up so more manageable, no feedback yet.

Drybridge:

- Water Reading: Water off
- Drug paraphernalia found of one of the plots, this was removed by Asda Security and Asda Security will be keeping an eye out. Combination will be changed on Drybridge on 1st February. Reported to Police also, mobile phone was found there which was handed to the Police also.
- Notice will be put on notice board about the above.

Eign:

- Water Reading: Water off
- Site looks tidy.

Holmer:

- Water Reading: Water off
- Two plots let.
- Will change the combination lock when updated list from VS once all rent has come in and we are sure who is renewing. Plot holders will be notified when changing.
- Thank you to a plot holder for helping clearing a plot of rubbish to help make more lettable and give the new tenants the best possible start.
- Chickens - a plot holder has asked if she can keep chickens and ducks. Ducks are not permitted but chickens are. TB will respond directly to the plot holder. TB agreed at meeting she would look into producing guidance for plot holders wanting to keep chickens in conjunction with ND who keeps chickens at his site.
- Soil mound needs removing.

Rockfield:

- Water Reading: Water off (0580/96)

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- No response from one plot holder who had a deadline until 20th December to improve plot, allowances made from Christmas and poor weather. Rent request has been sent.
- Plots 33 & 34 split into 5. Two are let but awaiting paperwork.
- One plot holder would like to know why his rent has gone up by £10. VS advised this is because all plots were re-measured at Rockfield as they were at Holmer.
- One plot holder not received his rent bill - VS advised this was sent this afternoon (06/01).
- Discussion regarding one plot where not much work has been done, JR will pass on to DM that a letter will be sent. Plot holder had plenty of time to work it before it being under water. This resulted in discussions of how and when letters are being sent but timeframes given but no decision made at meeting to change. VS advised some things need changing on tenancy agreement and tighten up letter aspect if it is felt a letter is needing a push.
- 23 sheds without water collection. How can the rules be enforced? The rules will be reviewed to see if this is in the rules but it is encouraged that all plot holders do what they can to conserve and collect water through water butts.

Westfaling:

- Water Reading: Water off
- Requested plot holders to remove items from hedges so hedges can be cut better.
- RB advised VS a couple were querying either cost of rent and admin fee, VS responded to RB during the meeting to feedback to plot holder.

Wordsworth:

- Water Reading: Water off
- Slow start due to flooding, allowances being made
- Farmer has cut the hedge and done a good job
- Issue with waiting list, will try and contact people but no response back
- Some of the new plot holders are very keen in tidying up

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Information/ Updates from Committee Members

- Site inspection took place over Christmas period of all sites by Committee Members.
- ND reminded all that to ensure consistency of site standards and site reps approach that it was agreed during a committee meeting earlier in the year that site reps will no longer come up for election every two years and there will be no re-election of site reps unless they wish to stand down. A site rep post will only come up for election at the AGM if a site rep position becomes vacant e.g. because site rep stands down.
- DM report handed out including clarification and request for rule change around fruit trees and bushes. General consensus during the meeting that number of trees permitted suggested by DM is not adequate. TE suggested in the rules that the rules could state *'if anyone wishes to plant anything on their allotment other than growing fruit, vegetables or flowers then permission will need to be sought from committee first.'* This was agreed by all as a good suggestion. TB expressed that an allotment is not just for growing vegetables and suggested people could start growing an allotment full of potatoes or runner beans whilst remaining in the rules and this should not be permitted. We also have to be mindful it is 'Leisure Gardeners'. Therefore TB suggested that there should not be a limit on number of fruit trees or bushes so long as they are dwarf or cordon variety and so long as plot holders are sensible and this is monitored by site reps. TE suggested that rather than being too explicit perhaps the rules could read *'if the site rep feels that a particular crop is becoming over abundant then the plot holder will be asked to cut back or remove.'* this was agreed as a good suggestion.
- Ash, Westfaling and Eign all plots are let.
- DM has given notice of resignation as Lettings Secretary as taking too much time, he will stay on as Lettings Secretary until AGM. DM will stay as a trustee. ND thanked DM for his contribution as Lettings Secretary.
- ND advised in terms waiting lists, site reps can manage their waiting lists and if they have tried contacting people over a period of time with no success then they can be taken off the list. Also

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Lettings Secretary going forward to pass information of perspective plot holders on to Site Reps and they will let the plots.

- TB requested confirmation of AGM date 9th March and ND will check Kindle Centre available.
- VS will be taking accounts into accountant to check in January.
- VS new starter training sessions happening tomorrow evening (7th Jan) at The Pavillion.

AOB

- MW no one has come forward for winter judging so they will be no winter judging this year.
- MW this year 90th Anniversary of National Allotment Association - vehicle in High Town to support this.
- MW and ND going to meeting at Kindle Centre over Community Gardens.

END OF MEETING

Next Meeting: Monday 3rd February @ 18:30 @ Asda Meeting Room