

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND SEATS COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> April AT 7.50 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

**PRESENT:** Councillors: A Bamford (Chair), C Bray, B Hobbs, G Kennett MBE,  
C Fleury, K Lloyd and M Wheeler.

**1. APOLOGIES:** None

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** It was **resolved** the Minutes of the last meetings held 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014 having been circulated and amended be approved and signed (BAH/CF).

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

Members of the public confirmed that they were dealing with the Mares Tail problem. It was being done by hand although roots went down 20 to 40 foot. No chemicals were wanted.

Plot 12B was mentioned and said to be a disgrace.

Another member of the public mentioned a problem with glass on the paddock and suggested that greenhouses should be protected by windbreaks.

**4. ALLOTMENTS**

**Report by Chairman**

Signage

Quite a few people have asked me where the allotments are in Freshwater. We decided to heighten the profile by a sign on the access gate and putting them on the Parish Website. We have had some positive comments about this.



General Survey of Plots

I have monitored the plots on a regular basis and established contact with a growing number of plot holders. I found that some of the plots did have rubbish left from the previous allotment holder and have asked on the winter newsletter if anyone can help with these problems especially if the person is unable to walk down the lane with things such as large window frames etc. The majority of plot holders do keep their plots tidy. I have noticed that the size of plots do vary and are not the 10 rods if full and 5 rods if half a plot.

Administration

Sue has introduced a new system with the plot rentals. There is an emphasis on email contact as this will be the preferred means of contact for the future. Sue deals with the general running of the allocation and queries about plots mainly through friendly phone calls. There has been a number of people leaving their plots generally due to retiring and this has led to the last few applicants not waiting long for a plot. At the moment the waiting list is one on the waiting list. A clearer graphic map has been made showing the individual plots. There has been one letter of complaint since the last meeting.

Newsletter

An informative newsletter was produced in January with gentle reminder of the problems with using carpet on a plot.



Water

The tap was fixed by Mr Dutfield. Have asked Southern Water about water pressure and they were not very helpful. Still looking at this problem.

Mares Tail

Talking to allotment holders Mares Tail is always going to be a problem. Most people I spoke to are happy to just keep it down and nobody requested us getting in a company to kill it with chemicals. Mr Brown and a few others are working on the two worst plots are pleased with the progress they have made.

## **5. ITEMS RAISED BY ALLOTMENT HOLDERS**

### **a. Access for tractor and trailer**

This was necessary to get manure to the site. It would be important to avoid vehicles being in the lane when children were going to and from school.

It was stated that it used to be possible to swing a tractor into the allotments but this was no longer possible because of increased size of some plots.

### **b. Regular supply of manure**

Allotment holders were happy to deal with this themselves.

### **c. Water supply**

The public felt that because there were many more plots a bigger pipe was necessary. Allotment holders would have the plumber look at this.

The chairman said that water pipes should go under the path rather than under plots. Allotment holders would also have the plumber look at this.

## **6. PROPOSAL FOR MAINTENANCE PERSON**

Fencing needed looking at. The public said that security needed to be looked at. There was no lock at present. The Chairman would look into this.

It was thought that barbed wire was not appropriate from the point of view of health and safety. It would need to be referred to insurers for guidance if it was to be considered further.

## **7. THE FUTURE**

### **d. Future plans**

The allotments were full. Matters to be considered were a community shed and a green toilet. Mrs Wager said that she would be happy with the toilet being put in the corner of the paddock.

**e. Allotment competition – proposed date Sat 8<sup>th</sup> August.** A member of the public 2 suggested judging over a period of time rather than the one occasion.

## **8. ANY OTHER MATTERS**

There was a suggestion for paths between plots.

Someone wanted to keep chickens. They would have a fox proof fence and it would be tried with 2 chickens to see how it worked.

It was questioned whether the allotments could be opened up to Totland residents. It was felt that Freshwater people should have priority and it should be dealt with with common sense. It was pointed out that Totland people would be more likely to drive.

## **9. QUESTIONS**

A member of the public asked about the budget. The Clerk confirmed that this was the income from allotments plus an additional £250.

## **SEATS**

### **10. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN**

There was a dangerous seat on Newport Road. The road has been widened which has led to the current situation.

### **11. PROPOSED SEAT POLICY**

A draft seats policy had been circulated. The chairman said that a supplier had been identified who would provide teak seats and stainless steel plaques. The figure of £325 was affordable for people and it was suggested that £100 maintenance was reasonable.

Cllr Wheeler asked about how the seats would be anchored. He said that care was needed to keep the level. He suggested that certain street furniture did not work in certain areas. A figure of £800 plus installation was not uncommon for urban areas.

Cllr Fleury suggested that clause 3.4 should be amended to provide for people to be informed in advance.

### **12. FUTURE OF SEATS**

The Chairman said that a maintenance man would make things easier. Cllr Harris suggested that a list of maintenance tasks should be prepared.

Cllr Wheeler said that currently Island Roads' seats were different styles. He could discuss with them about having a theme for an area.

Cllr Bray suggested having costings for repair and maintenance and identifying the seats which needed repair.

Cllr Harris suggested having a full maintenance schedule for the future.

Sites for seats needed to be identified. Freshwater Bay was one. It is thought that the land was owned by the Albion Hotel owners.

The meeting closed at 8.55