

# Notes of Allotment Holders Meeting Barbour Institute 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## PRESENT

### Allotment Holders

Mr B Bevan (1B & 4B), Mr J Brightwell (2B), Mr M Fowler (4A), Mr & Mrs M Hill (5), Mr P Jones (6A), Mrs G Nicol (6B), Mr R Peers (2A).

Apologies – Mr P Whitby (3)

### Parish Council

Lesley Jones, Andy Scarratt, Ann Wright (Clerk).

## Welcome & Introductions

Cllr. Scarratt welcomed all to the first allotment holders meeting, he noted that the Parish Council had been given responsibility for the allotments by CW&C and that the Council, which is funded by public money, wanted the allotments to be self-funding as far as possible. It was noted that the colony at Gatesheath is small and as part of CW&C had benefitted from being part of a bigger scheme.

It was asked if the Parish Council owns the land, the Clerk will look into this.

## Maintenance

It was noted that the Council cuts the hedges, which require cutting asap, and also pay for the water supply through rents received. The Council had looked at getting the two vacant plots cleared and had been quoted £600 per plot to carry out the works largely because there was no access for machinery. It was noted that Mr Jones had been clearing Plot 2B. It was noted one of the biggest problems faced by allotment holders is getting rid of waste from their plots, previously CW&C would supply a skip once a year but this did not always work as the weather could be bad on the given weekend and also as it was situated in the lay-by opposite the colony across the busy road.

It was agreed the allotments holders would meet on site and discuss the possibility of using part of plot 5A to create a communal composting area, it was agreed that the Council would fund the materials to create the waste area and the allotment holders would construct it.

## Chickens

It was noted that there had been a request from one of the allotment holders to have chickens on the site, the other allotment holders had no objection to this and a number of other allotment holders confirmed they would also like to have chickens in the future. It was agreed to take this to the Parish Council to consider after which the allotment holder agreed to contact properties neighbouring the colony to see if they had any objections. It was noted no cockerels would be allowed due to possible noise. It was agreed that some rules needed to be established to limit either the number of plots which chickens or the number of chickens allowed per plot.

## Rent 2020-2021

It was noted the rent for 2020-2021 was unchanged:

	Half Plot	Half Plot Concession	Full Plot	Full Plot Concession
2019-2020	£37.00	£22.20	£54.00	£32.40
2020-2021	£37.00	£22.20	£54.00	£32.40

## Future of Allotments

It was noted that the Allotments required a higher profile to make people aware and interested in them and that there was a need to develop a waiting list if possible.

It was agreed that should allotments become vacant in the future if they are not likely to be

taken on quickly they need to be covered to prevent them becoming overgrown. Allotment holders were asked to supply photos of plots, produce etc for posting on FACEBOOK.

It was noted that there is a lawn mower on the site which anyone can use, and it was discussed if a communal shed could be established for it to be stored in, this would be looked at by the allotment holders when assessing the composting area.

### **Communications**

It was agreed that the meeting had been successful and should become an annual event to allow allotments holders to catch up and discuss issues with Councillors.

Those allotment holders with emails addresses supplied them to the Clerk to allow emails to be sent, those without would be phoned or receive information by post.

### **Agreed Actions**

Parish Council – To review permitting chickens on plots

Allotment Holders – To look at creating a communal compost area and shed.

The chairman thanked all for attending the meeting.

Ann Wright 21/01/2020