

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Allotment Committee** held on 4th November 2024 at the Warboys Library.

IN ATTENDANCE

Allotment Association (AA) members; F Dykstra, P Bellamy & J Edwards and 3 members of public.

PRESENT WERE

Cllr R Dykstra
Cllr L Gifford
Cllr S Withams

Cllr J Land
Cllr J Parker (Chair)

Mrs E Coverdale:- Clerk
Mrs L Moore:- Asst. Clerk

Meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m

AL 20/24 WELCOME

Chair Parker opened the meeting.

AL 21/24 APOLOGIES

P Bellamy - arrived during discussions on agenda item 2/24 (7.01p.m)

AL 22/24 CO-OPTION

Members were invited to consider co-option of F Dykstra and P Bellamy for a further year onto the allotment committee.

Members also considered the co-option of allotment association member J Edwards onto the allotment committee.

Following discussions by members it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt all 3 onto the allotments committee as representatives of the allotment association for this municipal year.

Additionally, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that F Dykstra, P Bellamy & J Edwards were granted a dispensation to speak, and vote on matters appearing on the agenda for this municipal year.

F Dykstra, P Bellamy & J Edwards left the room while the vote took place. (7:01-7:02)

AL 23/24 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Dykstra declared an interest as his wife was an allotment tenant, but he had previously received a dispensation to speak but not vote on matters affecting the allotments.

AL 24/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 18th MARCH 2024

It was proposed by Cllr Withams, seconded by Cllr Land and **RESOLVED** by all Members present, the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2023 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

AL 25/24 ALLOTMENT LIAISON

The Chair provided members with an update on the allotments following the Allotment Association liaison on 29th October 2024.

- a) Rent
There is just 1 outstanding payment.
- b) Vacant Plots
In October 24 there were 12 vacant plots.
- c) Railway Carriage
Railway Carriage is now in a very bad way and unsafe. It will be discussed at council to raise this issue and recommend it is no longer used.
- d) Soil Improver
Although we were turned down by the Red Tile Trust and feel they have supplied sufficient supplies of soil improver in recent years, this is something we will keep in mind and try again in the next couple of years.
- e) Lack of Signage for Allotments
Concerns had been raised over the signage at the Allotments.
Plot numbering: - Concerns over the difficulty in locating the plots due to there being no visible signs. The handymen have been tasked with putting up the new numbers for the plots as soon as possible. It was also noted some of the signs need to be replaced which the Asst Clerk will arrange.
- f) Rabbits/Pest Control
Allotment holders had raised concerns about rabbits and rats at the site The clerk was going to investigate if we could get the ferriter on site to see if he could do anything regarding the rabbits. Unfortunately, there isn't much that can be done regarding the rats.
- g) Wood Chippings
It was noted there is now far too many wood chippings being dumped at the allotments and the clerks need to investigate who is doing it and ask them to stop for the time being.
- h) The Main Gate
It was noted by AA Members that the main gate isn't being closed. Reminders to be sent out on Facebook.

AL 26/24 ALLOTMENT UPDATE REPORT

- Currently 1 outstanding annual rent payment.
- We currently have 12 plots available.
- We don't currently have any notices issued.

AL 27/24 REVIEW OF ALLOTMENT BUDGET

We are not covering the current deficit which is currently £859.33.

AL 28/24 INCREASE OF PLOT DEPOSIT

The Asst Clerk read out a report regarding increasing the deposit to help with the finances. It was suggested we raise the deposit to £50. Following discussions, it was therefore proposed by Cllr Land and Seconded by Cllr Withams and unanimously **RESOLVED** to raise the deposit to £50 with immediate effect for new plot holders.

Asst Clerk to update all documents and Clerk to update all notices and social media.

AL 29/24 POTENTIAL RENT INCREASE

The Clerk updated all members that if we wanted to increase the rent, we needed to give all plot holders 1 year's notice. Following discussions, it was therefore proposed by Cllr Land and Seconded by Cllr Withams and unanimously **RESOLVED** to increase the annual rent from the 1st October 2025. A full plot will be £25 and a half plot £18.

AL 30/24 POTENTIAL TENANCY AGREEMENT UPDATES

a) Fruit Trees

The Clerk opened a discussion regarding trees and if we want to allow people to plant trees in the ground or if they should be maintained in pots. Following discussions, it was decided that the Clerks investigate this matter further and see what other Councils do. The Clerks to report back at the next meeting.

b) Dogs

The Clerk had a complaint of a dog at the allotments. We currently have nothing in the tenancy agreement regarding this. It was unanimously decided to allow dogs on the site if they are contained and the waste is picked up and taken home.

c) Gravel Footpaths

The Clerk opened a discussion regarding gravel footpaths and if we want to allow this. Following discussions, it was decided that the Clerks investigate this matter further and see what other Councils do. The Clerks to report back at the next meeting.

AL 31/24 SHED TENANCY AGREEMENT

The Clerks have created a shed tenancy agreement form from Roy's documents.

It was unanimously decided that we would not be upping the deposit for sheds/polytunnels.

AL 32/24 RAILWAY CARRIAGE

It was discussed we are no longer to use the carriage due to the very poor condition it is in. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to give all plot holders a months' notice to remove all personal belongings and from then it will be locked up until it decided the best way to remove it. Notices will go up and posted to social media.

AL 33/24 WOOD CHIPPINGS

Furthermore, to agenda item AL 25/24 g) there is currently 4 large piles in the car park. It was unanimously decided for the Asst Clerk to put a sign up to say no more chippings.

AL 34/24 NOTICES AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT ALLOTMENT AGENDA

- Open forum

MEETING CLOSED

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.49pm

The next meeting of the Allotments Committee will be confirmed early 2025.

Chairman.

Date.