

**ASHFORD ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE
MONDAY 25 APRIL 2016 COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC CENTRE**

Present:- Mrs P Winston-Chairman and Bybrook Cemetery
Mr T Fagg- Cryol Road Mr C Leek-Beaver
Ms C Green-Henwood Ms J Fuggle- Repton
Ms S Haste- Musgrove Mr S Heathfield- Gashouse Fields
Mr R Taylor- Orion Way Mr M Cooper- William
Road,Christchurch
Mr B Stamp- Treasurer Carol Ridings- Secretary
Eileen Law-Allotment Officer ABC
Jonathan Goodwin

1. Apologies

Mrs B Raggett- Westrees Mr G Button -Bulk Buying Manager Mr M Chandler- Burton Farm, Mr A Fraser- Membership Secretary

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks

'Firstly welcome to this our April meeting and I would like to begin by asking for a proposer and seconder to elect Jonathan Goodwin to this committee as web site manager.'

This was proposed by Colin Leek and seconded by Mark Cooper and carried unanimously.

'Thank you: Jonathan is now officially our new website manager.

Since our meeting in January we have made progress in the development of the new website about which Jonathan will speak later and we have been able to send out monthly newsletters via email to those for whom we have details. As site reps please encourage any new potential tenants to ensure they give an email address to Eileen and ask them to pop by the Trading Store to become members and take advantage of the offers and excellent value goods on sale.

I'm sure you know Geoff has been ill recently and it is good to know he is up and about again and we all wish him well for further good health.

The weather has not made it easy to prepare for this years crops and some of you are suffering still with very wet and waterlogged allotments. Now apparently we have artic winds to cope with over the next few days making transplanting pretty much impossible. However I feel sure we will all manage to cultivate our plots and produce good crops over the next warmer months ahead.

We have a visit to Willesborough Windmill on May 14th planned and hope to see some of you there from 2.15pm.

The trading store is open every Saturday in May apart from 14th for bring and buy plant sales so do please drop by if you have some spare plants to donate or want to try and buy plants at reasonable prices.

Over the next months we have our annual plot judging, Pilgrims hospice fête, and the summer show to look forward to, so I hope to see as many of you and your tenants as possible during the summer.

Good Gardening'

3. Minutes

On the second page of the minutes -the new constitution rules were all formally and unanimously agreed. There has been correspondence from one tenant who may be seeking to challenge the vote and change of rules as so few of the society members were present at the AGM, and therefore the vote was not correct. The Chairman has sent the tenant an email to explain that at the meeting there was a quorum and everything was correct.

Minutes agreed.

4. Bulk Buying Manager's Report

There have been a good few weeks in the Trading store, it has been very busy, with sales of between £200- £500 per Saturday.

5. Treasures report

Over the last month stock in the Trading Store has been replaced, approx £2000 spent on compost, therefore the account is low at £500 with £95 in the cash box, and £2700 in the second account.

7. Publicity Officer's Report

8 Membership Secretary's Report and Show Secretary's report

Please see attached.

The Chairman explained that she had purchased some tools at the recent Wilkinson's evening opening at a low price for prizes.

9. Report of the Allotment Officer

As of April there were 79 people on the waiting list with 17 plots vacant. There are 527 tenancies and 558 tenants. Some plots are under offer. Between 1st February and 24th April 13 new plots have been let and 18 terminated, so the situation is very fluid. The fencing has been completed at Westrees and tree work and fencing at William Road. The fence along the alleyway at Christchurch is being replaced.

Water on all sites will be turned on in the next few weeks, Eileen will do it personally. From this year water will be turned on from 1 May until 1 October. It appears that water is being turned on by allotment holders.

Eileen is currently measuring all plots so that people will pay for what they have. Most plots are slightly under sized but some are over. There needs to be a discussion over

whether invoices will be changed this year.

Locks cost £64, they are waterproof, however people are using oil in them which is ruining them. If this continues the Council may have to charge the allotment society for replacements. Eileen has supplies of graphite powder which can be obtained.

10. Report of Website Manager

All key information has been taken from the old website and placed on the new site, together with price lists from the trading store.

All minutes of meetings will be put on.

Anyone can e mail announcements using a template that has been provided.

Jonathan can e mail trading store members, and allotment holders. Eileen will provide Jonathan with further e mail addresses.

The Chairman explained that they are looking to set up a twitter account.

11. Site representatives report

Cryol- 1 vacant plot, it has been offered to one person. Plot 16b has not been worked yet. There is a dog problem. Eileen is happy for a sign on the notice board to say that dogs should be kept on a short leads. This will also be included in the newsletter.

William Road- Thanks to Eileen for phase 1 of the fencing. There is concern about a ½ plot being used for growing wild flowers for bees and butterflies. It was explained that the tenancy says that 75% has to be cultivated.

All the bins are being used for water storage.

The pathways are not being cut, this also needs to go on the web site to remind tenants to maintain and keep their paths tidy.

Henwood- There is concern about non cultivation of some plots. Rubbish is collecting around the shed. A sign will be put on the notice board.

Gashouse Fields- Approx 7-8 people have had non cultivation letters.

Repton- Ms Fuggle explained that Bill and Fred used to cut the grass between plots and it appears that the Council does not cut any paths. Eileen will look into this.

Beaver- 1 non cultivation letter

Musgrove- A few non cultivation letters. The walnut tree is dropping lots of branches, this will be looked at. There may also be a water leak.

Bybrook -Concern over three plots where there has been no work. The hedging has been cut. The water tap has been manoeuvred so that it doesn't drain into the tank.

Orion Way- A few plots have not been worked. Plastic is required for the notice board.

Burton Farm- 'Currently the site is gradually coming back to life after the winter break and people can be seen working their plots. The site will soon be taking a delivery of bins for plot holders to use as water butts. I think it would be a good idea if plot holders are asked first if they want a bin, otherwise we may have a surplus of bins and nowhere to store them. One plot is currently vacant. '

Eileen will provide plastic for the notice boards.

11. Working Party

Discussions have mainly been on water conservation, and the 10 top tips will be put on the notice board, web site and be emailed out. See attached.

The Chairman knows someone who never waters apart from transplanting and for courgettes. He will be doing a monthly blog for the web.

Mr Fagg only uses water when he transplants and for courgettes, as once plants are established they fend for themselves..

The working party is also looking at community liaison and groups who may benefit from allotment gardening. They will now meet every 2 months or when needed.

Date of the next Meeting Wednesday 21st September 2016 Committee Room 1, 6.30