

# **Hurworth Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the Allotment Committee held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

### **Those present**

Committee:-Graham Wylie (Chairman), Paul Walters, Maureen Powles, Tony Sayers

Also attending: Terry King, Colin Dugmore, David Crisp, Diane Hurst, Margaret Williams, Val Allan and the Parish Clerk (Peter Allan).

### **1. Opening address.**

The Chairman welcomed the committee and all those attending.

**2. New Council Representatives.** The new Parish Council representatives are Paul Walters and Dorothy Oughton.

**3. Apologies for absence:** none, but Dorothy Oughton and Brian Cooper were not in attendance.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 were accepted by the committee.

### **5. Allotment Register and Waiting List.**

The Clerk reported that all the allotment plots were occupied and all rents for 2017 have been received.

**Waiting List- Strait Lane** – There are 9 people currently on the waiting list, of which 4 are for a second plot.

Hurworth Grange: There are now 5 on the waiting list; 2 people who were on the list have left the parish.

**6. Allotment Upkeep.** The Chairman reported that plot 21a at Strait Lane is in poor condition. Maureen Powles offered to call on the tenant and propose remedial action.

Plot 7a is also in need of work, and the Chairman offered to tidy this up, as the tenant is unwell at present.

**1.** It was reported that the external pathway is overgrown with weeds and also the hedge has expanded onto the right of way, causing difficulties in walking along the path. **Action: Clerk** to arrange for this to be cut back (Street Scene)

**2.** There is some concern about the state of the main walls around the Grange allotments. **Action : Clerk** to have them surveyed.

**3.** It was reported that some none allotment holders with dogs are walking through the allotments, which are private property. It is likely that this is being prompted by the external pathway being overgrown. However, it was agreed that new notices will be put on the gates **Action Chairman and Clerk** to design and organise. Also that the council should put up signs indicating the Public Right of Way. **Action Clerk**

**4.** More chippings are required for the pathways. **Action: Clerk to arrange delivery** to the Strait Lane end of the allotments.

**5.** The mesh on the fence at Strait Lane requires some repairs. The Chairman said he would address this problem.

## **7. Review of the Allotment Rules**

The Chairman opened the discussion stating that the original rules date back to 1934, and were updated in 2011.

It became necessary to review the rules again recently, principally concerning two items,

1. Fires on allotments
2. The size and structure of sheds and other erections on allotments.

Rule 15 has been redrafted to clarify the rules relating to fires, and this has been accepted.

Rule 10. has been modified to specify the size and structure of building on allotment plots.

Maureen Powles requested to build a summerhouse on her allotment, and the Parish Council rejected this request. Several letters and interactions have taken place, involving outside parties, concerning disabled access. Other concerns relate to the use of buildings for purposes other than growing produce, and in particular the size and material to be used in construction a summerhouse.

The Parish Council has debated this request at some length, and have reconfirmed their position as declining the request. David Crisp expressed his concerns about disabled access and the potential demand for solid roadways to enable wheel chairs, also toilet facilities for disabled persons. It was stressed that allotments are designed for ECO activities, rather than leisure or play areas.

The subject was debated by the meeting, but there was no clear outcome.

## **8. Requirements for 2017**

A skip will be requires at Strait Lane in October. Maureen Powles suggested that a van is used, rather than a skip, but after discussion, the Clerk was asked to arrange for a skip.

**Expenses incurred** for the 8 months to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Water charges	116
2 New notice boards	320
Grass cutting at strait Lane	200
Key	9

**Total costs** **£645.**

## **9. Any Other Business**

1. **Excess produce from allotments** Graham Wylie reported that he has arranged for the surplus to be taken to the Mustard Tree Cafe every Saturday morning at 9:00am.
2. Help the Recovery Scheme. This has been co-ordinated with the Hurworth Surgery, and is now active, although no person has yet attended.
3. **Excess produce from allotments** Graham Wylie reported that he has arranged for the surplus to be taken to the Mustard Tree Cafe every Saturday morning at 9:00am.
4. Terry King suggested that an E Mail database be established so that all allotment holders can be circulated with appropriate information. This was agreed, and the Clerk will undertake this task, with the help of the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm

