

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Allotment Committee meeting held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Wednesday 10th September 2014 starting at 7.15pm.

Those present: Graham Wylie, Tony Sayers, Margaret Williams, Brian Cooper (representing George Lawman)

Also attending: Terry King, Val Hughes, Mary Honeyman, John Edwards, Michelle Edwards, and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

1. Margaret Williams opened the meeting welcoming the committee, and thanking them for their attendance and welcomed the visitors.
2. **Election of Chairman for the meeting.** In accordance with the procedure, the Chair for the meeting was elected; Margaret Williams took the Chair.
3. **Apologies for Absence** Ian Holme (Business). George Lawman was away on business.
4. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2014 were accepted by the committee.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. A dog bin has been installed, but it is on Strait Lane and not close to the allotments. This has resulted in bags of dog litter being left near the pathway.
- b. The litter bin has still not been installed.
- c. The grass around the allotments and the hedge row have been trimmed by DBC, and are now in good order
- d. It was decided that the lock is not required on the side gate, as there are not many walkers passing through at present. Also there was concern about allotment holders forgetting the combination number.
- e. It was decided that as the grass cutting was now being carried out regularly and to the committee's satisfaction, that a new strimmer is not required.
- f. Grange allotments still need a litter bin. **Clerk to contact Streetscene again to have this installed.**

5. Allotment Occupancy and Waiting List status

- a. The Clerk reported that all plots are currently taken and there is a Waiting List of none for plots at Strait Lane and four for the Grange.

One allotment holder, at Strait Lane, has written to retire his allotment. The plot is in good order, and his bond will be returned. **Action Clerk**

The committee examined the Waiting List, and the next qualified person was selected and the Clerk instructed to offer the plot to the person next entitled. **Action Clerk**

b. Rent for 2015

After a short debate, the committee agreed that the rent should remain at £15 for 2015. The expenses this year are within budget, and no exceptional expenditure is envisaged. Margaret Williams will convey this to the Parish Council.

6. Paths, Communal Areas and litter bins

Graham Wylie reported that the pathways were now in good shape and there are no complaints. However, a litter bin is required and another dog bin, which should be located

at the Lychgate end. These have been requested previously, but the **Clerk agreed to make further overtures to Street Scene to achieve this.**

Graham recommended that a second notice board is required at strait Lane, to be situated near the main gate. This was agreed, as many allotment holders do not get sight of the notices and minutes. **Clerk to arrange.**

7. Allotment Upkeep

Graham Wylie reported that all the plots are in good condition, as good as he can remember for a few years. All the existing plot holders are caring for their plots.

Tony Sayers agreed with Graham, and was pleased to report that all the plots at the Grange are also in good order.

8. Equipment location and status

George Lawman had requested that this item be put on the agenda.

He had asked where the old lawn mower, the new lawn mower and the old strimmer are currently being housed.

Brian Cooper reported that the new mower is housed in the HPC shed, which is on his allotment plot.

Graham reported that the old, broken, lawn mower had been given away, to make space in the shed. It was too costly to repair it.

Graham said he had not seen the petrol strimmer for a couple of years, and nobody at the meeting could provide input to its present location. Graham said it is very old, and although it still works, has no real value. The committee suggested and then agreed that the strimmer should be written off.

9. Allotment requirements

a. It was agreed that the water would be turned off on 31st October; Graham and Tony Sayers will turn it off at the two sites.

b. A skip is required at Strait Lane at the end of October or first week in November.

c. An allotment holder has request permission to fill his rain water barrels from the communal tap. This was debated by the committee members for some time.

It was agreed that if permission was given to one person, then the rule should apply to all plot holders.

Margaret Williams suggested that this could be tried for 12 months to measure the effect on the cost of water used.

A decision was taken by the committee that permission should be denied, and the existing rules upheld. They thanked Margaret for offering to have a trial period, but declined the offer.

10. Association Report

In the absence of George Lawman there was no formal report. However George had sent a message that there are now 23 members of the Association. It was not clear whether this was 23 different plot holders or 23 plots.

11. Any Other Business

Val Hughes, through the Chair, reminded the audience that entries into the Hurworth country Fair are due by 18th September.

Several allotment holders expressed the view that the Fair date is too late, and the best of the crops have already passed.

It was suggested that the Fair be earlier in the year, perhaps August Bank Holiday weekend.

This will be reported to the Fair Organising Committee.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM and will be on Wednesday, 19th November at Hurworth Grange starting at 7:15pm

Margaret thanked the attenders and closed the meeting at 8:08pm