

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Allotment Committee meeting held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Wednesday 2nd July 2014 starting at 7.15pm.

Those present: Graham Wylie, Tony Sayers, Harry Doran, Margaret Williams,

Also attending: Bryan Cooper, Terry King, Val Hughes and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

1. Margaret Williams opened the meeting welcoming the committee, and thanking them for their attendance.

Harry Doran announced that he is going to give up his allotment in December, and therefore wished to resign from the Allotment Committee. The meeting thanked Harry for his service, and he left the meeting.

2. **Election of Chairman for the meeting.** In accordance with the procedure, the Chair for the meeting was elected; Graham Wylie took the Chair.
3. **Apologies for Absence** Ian Holme (Business). George Lawman was away on business.
4. **Minutes**
 - a. The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March were accepted by the committee.
 - b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The bins at Strait Lane have still not been installed, although there is a dog litter bin at the entrance on Strait Lane. The grass needs cutting again, and the hedge needs cutting back. The Clerk is pressing DBC to get this work done.

5. **Allotment Occupancy and Waiting List**

All the allotments are occupied and there is a healthy Waiting List. There are seven names for Strait Lane and five for the Grange. The names on the Waiting List were reviewed, and it was reconfirmed that new applications will take preference over people who already have one or more plots.

6. **Notice Boards**

Bryan Cooper has made and erected a new notice board at Strait Lane, and the Council has installed a new notice board at the Grange. Both are now in use. The exact positioning is not ideal, as some plot holders do not pass the notices route to their allotments; however once they are known to be there, they will get attention. The committee thanked Bryan for his work.

Attention was drawn to the HPC web site, which contains the Allotment Committee Minutes, but they are hard to locate. They are currently filed among all PC Minutes, and it was suggested that it would be better if they were contained under the 'allotment' tab.

Action Clerk to address this.

7. **Paths and Communal Access**

A new Mountfield lawn mower has been supplied by the council, and it is housed in the council's shed which is on Bryan Coopers plot. The old Flymo does not cut the grass well and damages the land.

The committee thanked Bryan Cooper for his work in cutting the grass, but as this is a heavy task, the committee agreed that in future a person will be engaged to do the work. This will start with immediate effect.

A strimmer is required so that the plots can be better defined and kept in neater condition.

8. Litter bins.

Action: the Clerk to chase the DBC to get the dog litter bin and rubbish bins delivered and installed.

9. Upkeep of Allotments

Tony Sayers reported that all the plots at the Grange are in good order. There are no complaints.

Graham Wylie reported that the plots are in the best condition he can remember. All the plots are experiencing good results.

The meeting expressed their thanks to Ian White for repairing the gate at Strait Lane end, where a new wheel has been fitted, at no cost.

10. Allotment Requirements

The committee requested that the Council representative would consider providing the following items:-

- a. A combination locking device to secure the gate leading from the Lych Gate end. Members of the public are cutting through the allotments with children and with dogs; as this is private land, this must be deterred.
- b. The gate from Lych Gate is fairly fragile as it is made of a light wood material. It is doubtful whether a combination locking device can be efficiently fitted to it. It was also suggested that the existing gate could easily be broken into, if a lock is fitted. The committee requested that a new, more substantial gate be installed. A new gate would cost circa £75, and with posts and a lock would be circa £130.
- c. The committee requested that the council supply a strimmer, which would be used to maintain the allotment premises. The cost would be circa £80.

11. Association Report

In the absence of George Lawman there was no report.

However, the Clerk read out an E Mail from George, informing the meeting that a working group has been formed with the following positions:-

Bryan Cooper – chair

George Lawman – Vice Chair

David Crisp – Membership representative

It is hoped that the Working Committee will be able to work with HPC to move the Association forward.

12. Any Other Business

- a. The Clerk drew attention to the latest water bill for Strait Lane. The taps had been turned on in mid-March this year, due to the dry weather, which answered the question.
- b. Attention was drawn to the Hurworth Country Fair; the list of produce groups has been released and is already on the HPC and Fair web sites. Lists are also displayed on the allotment notice boards.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 10th September at Hurworth grange starting at 7:15pm

Graham thanked the attenders and closed the meeting at 8:28pm