

**INFORMAL REPORT OF THE ALLOTMENTS USERS MEETING  
HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

**MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE**

**Chairman:** \* T Edwards

**Councillors** \* Mrs W Boatman  
\* Mrs M Jarrett  
R Khiroya (ex officio)  
\* Mrs V Lantree  
G Liley  
\* Mrs A Preedy  
\* Mrs L Sutherland (ex officio)  
Mrs J Worrall

\*Denotes members present  
Also present Cllr S Watkins, Cllr Miss P Howell

There were five allotment holders present.

**12/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs R Khiroya, G Liley and Mrs J Worrall.

**12/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest:

**12/03 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Committee  
RESOLVED  
That the informal notes of the Allotment Users held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011 be accepted.

**12/04 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

**12/05 REPRESENTATIONS FROM ALLOTMENT HOLDERS**

**The Swillett:**

Issues raised by the Allotment representative for the Swillett sent in prior to the meeting by email were discussed.

Appreciation that the Parish letter sent to the occupants adjoining the alley access to the allotments has had the necessary effect in that the hedge has now been cut well back.

Potholes on the access to the Allotments at the Swillett worse than ever seen. The allotment administrator advised that the issue had been raised with the Rights of Way Officer who would be visiting the area in the following week and would advise on the way forward. It was possible that if allotment holders were willing to provide the labour that Herts County Council would provide the

materials which would require an area for the materials to be put. This would be put back to the allotment holders if Herts County Council decided that remedial work was not required.

The entrance to the allotments has become very rutted and water logged. The meeting was advised that the Rangers had visited the allotments with a contractor and were currently awaiting a quote for the best solution to the problem.

The Clerk, Ranger and Allotment Administrator had surveyed the allotments at the start of the Summer and identified some tree work to be done this winter. Some lower branches had been cleared but the main work had to wait until the plots were cleared of produce.

The half plot identified as uncultivated had finally been paid for but the allotment administrator would be seeking confirmation that there were no extenuating circumstances preventing cultivation and if not confirmation of the tenant's intention to cultivate.

Damage to the main grass area thought to be by Badgers digging for Chafer Grub – insecticide spraying was not something that the Rangers are licensed for.

Numbering of plots continues to be a problem. The Allotment administrator highlights this every year on the covering letter sent out with tenancy renewal letters, at the time of the annual allotment completion and it is the tenancy agreement. Temporary plot numbers are put on plots being re-let. It was suggested that the Council write to all allotment holders whose plots are not numbered requesting them to number them within a given timeframe, suggesting that if action was not taken they would be charged for the Council to provide. Mr Clark offered to ensure that all plots were numbered for the Copmans Wick Allotment site.

Following a request to remind plot holders who are the last to leave to lock the gates, laminated notices would be provided by the Parish Office.

### **Dog Kennel Lane:**

The Allotment Representative thanked the Parish council for their work at the allotments. He raised concerns at the number of empty plots at the Dog Kennel Lane site and suggested that people on the waiting lists for the other sites be approached and offered a vacant plot at Dog Kennel Lane. The representative also suggested that tenancy renewal at the end of March was bad timing. After discussion it was suggested that an email be sent to all allotment holders in January reminding them that they did not have to wait until April if they intended to give up their plot. Any plot given up at this earlier time would then stand more chance of being cultivated for the forthcoming municipal year.

### **Copmans Wick:**

It was reported that there were a few plots not being cultivated but users were aware that non cultivated plots were now followed up by the Council on a regular basis. The idea was raised of splitting up a plot into a number of smaller more manageable plots for the first time allotment tenant as had been done at allotment sites elsewhere. The idea would be taken to Open Spaces for consideration if a suitable plot came free and there were sufficient people interested in this idea.

### **General:**

The question of having bee hives at the allotment was raised and would be put to the Open Spaces Committee if a Bee keeper prepared to have bee hives on one of the allotment sites could be found.

## **12/06 ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

The Allotment Representatives for Dog Kennel lane, The Swillett and Copmans Wick - Mr McCarthy, Mr Layzell and Mr Hubbard, confirmed that they were happy to continue in the role of representative for their respective allotment sites and there being no other nominations were appointed for the following year.

## **12/07 CLOSURE**

The meeting having commenced at 7 pm closed at 7.50 pm.