

**REPORT OF THE INFORMAL ALLOTMENT USERS MEETING  
HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

**MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE**

- Chairman:** \* Barbara Green
- Councillors**
- \* Jo Clark
  - Barbara Dickens
  - \* Tony Edwards (ex officio)
  - Raj Khiroya
  - \* Jill Leeming
  - Alison Preedy
  - \* Martin Trevett
  - \* Jane White (ex officio)

\* Denotes members present

**Officers present** Claire James – Deputy Clerk

There were three members of the public present.

**15/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Barbara Dickens and Alison Preedy, Cllr Raj Khiroya was absent from the meeting. In the absence of Cllr Barbara Green at the start of the meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Martin Trevett would chair the meeting.

**15/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Martin Trevett declared an interest as an allotment holder at The Swillett.

**15/03 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Committee

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the informal meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

**15/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Bees:** It was noted that the trial of the bee hives at the Swillett appeared to be going smoothly with no issues reported to the Parish Office.

**15/05 REPRESENTATIONS FROM ALLOTMENT HOLDERS**

A new allotment holder from the Swillett who had taken over a very overgrown plot just before Christmas explained that he had had to remove a lot of carpet from the plot left by a previous tenant and asked whether a skip could be provided for this and other rubbish at the allotment site. It was agreed that this would be taken forward to the next Open Spaces Committee.

An allotment holder from Copmans Wick raised concern at the number of overgrown plots at that site and suggested that instead of the Council charging new tenants a New Tenant Admin charge of £25 they should in fact give £25 to the new tenant. Alternatively, the suggestion was made of waiving the allotment fee for the first year. To address the issue of overgrown plots a request was made to spray such plots with weed killer. The issues of this were debated and concerns of the cost implications also voiced.

*Cllr Barbara Green joined the meeting at 7.15 pm*

In response to a question from an allotment holder, the Deputy Clerk explained the process of taking back an uncultivated plot which could be quite lengthy.

The April timing of the tenancy renewal was questioned suggesting that this added to the problem of uncultivated plots. It was noted however that plots were given up at other times of the year not just when renewal letters were issued in March/April.

Cllr Barbara Green raised the issue of the dumping of rubbish at Copmans Wick and sought allotment holders views. It was agreed that some dumping of rubbish by tenants took place but that also nearby residents dumped rubbish at the allotment site.

The issue of dogs being let loose on the allotments was also raised and it was agreed that a note concerning this be added to the letter that was being issued to residents in properties adjoining the Copmans Wick Allotment site. It was also suggested that signs similar to those recently put in place at Dog Kennel Lane Allotments be put at the other two allotment sites.

The fencing situation at Copmans Wick was discussed and tenants advised that this was in hand.

It was noted that the bee keeper with the bee hives at the Swillett may be prepared to put hives at Copmans Wick. It had been agreed at a previous Open Spaces Committee that the trial of Bee hives at the Swillett was to have been for one year and the extension of this to Copmans Wick would be revisited at the next Open Spaces Committee.

It had been suggested that the recent Clean for the Queen exercise could have been extended to include the allotments however this had not been possible to arrange in time. It may be possible to arrange such an exercise for the allotments at some point in the future.

The potholes in the footpath leading to the Swillett were raised and it was agreed that the footpath condition would be raised with the Rights of Way officer at Herts County Council.

**15/06 ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

There were insufficient tenants present to take this item forward.

**15/07 CLOSURE**

The meeting having commenced at 7.00 pm closed at 7.30pm.

Signed .....Agreed Via Email Cllr Trevett..... Date 11.4.16.....

These minutes were agreed as a true and correct record at the Open Spaces meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Signed..... Date.....