

27/10/15

Minutes of the Eastry Allotments Committee meeting held at the Parish Room on Monday 26th October 2015.

Present: Councillors: M Pemble

Appointed members: R.Barwick (Chairman) G Bull P Bailey (Secretary)

No Allotment holders/members of the public present.

1. Apologies

M Kemp and J Kemp.

2. Declaration of Interest.

All those present are allotment holders.

3. The committee meeting was not closed to enable allotment holders/members of the public to speak or ask questions.

As none were present.

4. Minutes of the last committee meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th July 2015 were agreed and signed by the chairman.

5. Actions of the Last Meeting.

- a) As there are still some vacant plots it was agreed that advertising of the allotments should continue. **Action ongoing.**
- b) The overhanging trees to the May Mill site are still to be pruned back but there are also four “fir” trees that are causing problems these were to be inspected by a parish councillor who will report back to the main parish council. **Action ongoing/Parish council.**
- c) The water tap close to the external pathway and subject to tampering will be moved whilst the water supply is turned off during the winter. **Action ongoing.**
- d) Vehicle access notices have been placed on the May Mill site and will soon need to be displayed on the School site as ground conditions deteriorate. **Action secretary.**
- e) Although a fence has been reinstated around the rear of 4 May Mill Cottages it is only a four feet high and therefore has compromised the security of the May Mill site. The parish council need to be made aware of this situation. Similarly there is also a ten foot stretch near the offending “fir” trees (see 5b) that is “open” to unauthorised access. **Action secretary/Parish council.**
- f) A further termination notice had been sent to a plot holder as they had not cultivated their plot. **Item discharged.**
- g) The Annual Barbeque had been a great success and the committee’s thanks go to Margaret Pemble and Eric Hawkes who both planned and carried it out. **Item discharged.**
- h) The original vacancy on the committee has been filled, and authorised at a parish council meeting, by Gill Bull who will be an allotment holder member. **Item discharged.**
- i) The programme of strimmer use by the trained volunteers has continued but the storage of the strimmer has still not been completed. **Action secretary/Parish council.**
- j) Allotment holders now seem to be locking the” five bar gate” access to the School site and not leaving it unsecured. **Item discharged.**

- k) The main notice board on the May Mill site has still yet to be re-sited. **Action ongoing.**
- l) The Allotment holders' annual open meeting on the 22nd September 2015 saw no members attending so the committee assumed that all allotment holders were happy with the way the allotments were being run. **Item discharged.**
- m) All gates to the allotments on both sites have a notice reminding users to secure the padlocks even when the gate is open. **Item discharged.**
- n) The redundant plot on the School site, to be used for extra parking, needs to be added to the mowing contract. **Action secretary/parish clerk.**

6. Allotment Management.

- a) Although the date had passed for the payment of plot rents it was not certain who had paid by bank transfer until the clerk to the parish council had received a bank statement. Only two plots had been vacated to date (one of which has already been let). It was agreed that once it was known who had not yet paid their rent the secretary would write/e-mail those to see if they intended to continue with their plots. **Action secretary.**
- b) It was agreed that the water supply would be turned off, for the winter, during the first week of November. **Action chairman.**
- c) There is a need to redraw the plan, and perhaps renumber the plots, on the May Mill site, it was agreed that this should be carried during the winter. **Action Chairman/secretary.**
- d) **Any other business.**
 - i) A potential plot holder had agreed to take on one of the vacant 10 rod plots that was in need of attention before handing over but had asked to be considered for any other plots that might become available. As none had it was agreed that permission from the parish council should be sought to reduce the rent on that plot for the first 12 months. Similarly there were a few vacant smaller plots that should be offered at a reduced rental **Action secretary/Parish council.**
 - ii) Jeremy Kemp had given up his allotment plot and resigned from the allotment committee meaning that there was a need to invite an allotment holder to become part of this committee. In view of the previous difficulties to find another member the committee seeks the parish council's advice on how we should progress. **Action parish council.**

7. Correspondence.

One e-mail had been received requesting permission to plant fruit trees on their plot. It was agreed that the secretary should remind the plot holder of paragraph 3.11 of their tenancy agreement when granting permission pointing out that this meant dwarf stock. **Action secretary**

8. Date and time of next meeting.

It is was agreed that the next committee meeting should take place, at a date to be agreed.

Approved by Chairman

Date: