

Hurworth Parish Council

Allotment Committee Meeting Minutes held at Hurworth Grange on 26th September 2019.

Those Present:-

David Crisp (Chairman), Graham Wylie (HPC), Tony Sayer (Hurworth Grange Allotment Rep.)

Also- John Edwards, Marion Edwards, Colin Dugmore, K. Liddle, R. Sterling, Debbie Wilcox, N. Prior, B. Cooper, P. Headey, P. Akers, P. Dodsworth, J. Gibson and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk RFO).

1. Chairman's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed everybody and thanked them for their attendance.

The Chairman introduced the new Strait Lane Allotment Committee representatives, Colin Dugmore, Debbie Wilcox and Brian Cooper. Tony Sayers represents the Grange Allotments and Graham Wylie and David Crisp represent the Council.

The Chairman highlighted the success of the Strait Lane Allotments Fun Day. The event was well attended and engendered a good community spirit. Home grown produce was sold at the event a BBQ and a tombola added to the success of the day. The event raised £250, which has been put into the allotment fund, which now totals £308, which is after the purchase of a cutter which cost £209.

2. **Apologies for Absence.** Terry King, Keith Besforth.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th August 2018, having been distributed, were accepted, Proposed by Graham Wylie and Seconded by Debbie Wilcox.

4. Allotment Register and Waiting List

a. The Chairman advised the meeting that every plot has a tenant at both Strait Lane and Hurworth Grange.

b. There is a Waiting List with four names for Strait Lane, and a further two tenants who have requested a second plot. There is one name for Hurworth Grange.

The Waiting List for Hurworth Grange has reduced because people who had registered for an allotment, as far back as 2014, have now withdrawn.

5. Allotment Upkeep

a. Tony Sayer reported that all the plots at Hurworth Grange are in good condition.

b. David Crisp, along with Colin Dugmore, reported that the allotments at Strait Lane are in good condition. Two plots were noted as requiring attention, and David agreed to speak to the plot holders.

There was a discussion regarding the procedure for handling plots which were not being well attended. This is covered in the new rules which are being proposed at this meeting.

It was agreed that all tenants must pay the refundable Bond of £30. New tenants who may be offered a plot which is in poor condition will pay the Bond, but will have the options of:-

1. Accepting £30 sum, if they will bring the plot up to standard.

or

2. The Council will arrange to bring the plot up to standard.

6. Allotment Equipment Register

- a. It was established that the Council owns one lawn mower and one strimmer, which are both at strait Lane.
- b. It was agreed that the shed, which was purchased by the Council some years ago, is now officially 'scrapped'.

7. Summary of Allotment Expenses for the 12 months to 31st August 2019.

The Clerk read out the following report.

Allotment Expenses	
<u>12 months 1st September 2018 to 31st August 2019</u>	
Water charges	293.95
Purchase of strimmer	133.20
Lawn mower	70.00
Award for Allotment Open Day	200.00
Fence and sundry repairs	345.00
Hire of skip	200.00
National Association of Allotments sub	55.00
Grass cutting	267.10
Total expenses for 12 months	1564.25
Total subscriptions	
57 plots @ £20	1140.00

The Clerk stated that the contribution to the Allotment Fund Day is treated as a 'community event' award, and not a direct expense of the allotments.

It is envisaged that the allotment rent for 2020 will remain at £20.

8. Review of Allotment Rules

Graham Wylie addressed the meeting with regard to the introduction of a new set of Allotment Rules, hereafter referred to as the 2019 Allotment Rules.

A copy of the Rule was distributed and Graham highlighted the major changes. Recent events had prompted this revision and the requirement to tighten up and further clarify several sections.

Colin Dugmore raised a number of points, which lead to an open discussion on rules 2.5, 2.11, 2.12 2.16 2.19. Each rule was discussed until a decision was made with regard to it.

2.5 The use of hose pipes was clarified. At present the Council has given permission for the use of hose pipes on all allotments. Economy is emphasised and sprinklers are not allowed.

2.11 Traders are not allowed, casual produce being sold may be considered acceptable.

2.12 Structures

There was a lengthy discussion and exchange of views regarding the size of future structures. Finally it was agreed that the maximum size of any structure, whether it be a shed, greenhouse or poly tunnel should be 8fr by 6ft. More than one structure will be allowed, but the total area covered should not exceed twenty percent of the plot.

Existing structure can remain in situ.

This was put forward as a motion: Proposed by Nic Prior and Seconded by Phil Dodsworth. The motion was passed by nine votes in favour with two against, with one abstention.

2.16 Dogs. It was agreed that notices would be displayed at the allotments. Allotment holders who breached the rules would receive a warning letter, followed by a second warning letter, and if they still ignored the rule, then they could be asked to give up their tenancy.

2.19 Bonfires, it was agreed that the proposed rule is adequate.

A motion was put before the meeting that the draft 2019 Allotment Rules, with the modifications noted above should be accepted. Proposed by Colin Dugmore, Seconded by Brian Cooper, and the motion was carried unanimously.

9. Any Other Business

It was suggested that if an allotment is vacated that before the plot is offered to the next person on the Waiting List, that existing tenants should have an option to exchange their existing allotment with the newly vacated plot.

To allow this option, the vacancy should be advertised on the Allotment notice boards for seven days. Anybody wishing to take up this opportunity should immediately inform one of the Allotment Committee members.

The meeting agreed to this suggestion, and an addendum will be added to the 2019 Rules.

The chair closed the meeting at 8:10pm

The Council arranged a free buffet for all the people who had attended the meeting.

