

A local council for the peoples of Icklesham, Winchelsea, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour

**Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting Held at Winchelsea Court Hall on Monday 25th March
7.15 pm**

Present: Cllrs: C Chappell, I Mann (Chair) and A Rixon

In Attendance: Jenner Sands (Clerk and RFO), Danielle Heffernan (Assistant Clerk), Rob Brown (Cricket Field Site Rep), Andrew Whittaker (Rye Harbour Site Rep) members of the public were also present.

1. Questions or comments from members of the public relating to matters on the agenda.

Andrew Whittaker asked whether there was any follow-up from the Allotment Inspections in October. The Clerk confirmed that the letters had been sent and that each tenant had confirmed to the Clerk that they would carry out the works the Clerk had requested. The Clerk explained that there is a further inspection in May where the plots in question would be looked at again.

Rob Brown asked whether anything had been done about Hog Trough Lane. The Clerk explained that Cllr Rixon was going to provide an update on this under item 5.

2. Apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllr Stanford and Cllr Thomson.

3. Disclosure of interests. Cllr Mann and Cllr Chappell both declared a personal interest as allotment tenants.

4. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2023.
RESOLVED: the Minutes were approved and signed.

5. Feedback from Allotment Sites.

Cricket Field

Tenant of CF27a has told the Clerk that he does not feel he should be responsible for clearing all of the rubbish from the plot. He told the Clerk that the majority of the rubbish was there when he took over the plot. The Clerk had asked him to remove what he feels he should be responsible for removing before the meeting this evening so she could take some pictures to show the Committee however this does not appear to have been done. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to obtain a quote for this and forward it on to the tenant.

Cllr Rixon confirmed that he had been to look at the ridge on Hog Trough Lane. He said that road planings could work however it is likely they would wash out over time. Cllr Smedley had said that Southern Water had done some work on that lane and never bothered filling it in properly. **RESOLVED:** it was agreed that the Parish Council could not contribute towards the costs of maintaining the lane as it would set a precedent. The Clerk is to contact Southern Water and ask them to fill in the ridge.

The National Trust have installed new metal fencing around the allotments however the perimeter fence inside the allotments is in a very bad condition. **RESOVLED:** Clerk is to ask a contractor to look at this.

Rye Harbour

Andrew Whittaker confirmed that the allotments in Rye Harbour have been very wet again this year. The Clerk confirmed that the flooding was on the agenda later on in the meeting.

Pear Tree Marsh

The Clerk confirmed that there are still a few cars parking overnight at Pear Tree allotments. The Assistant Clerk has been putting notices on the cars and the situation has improved. **RESOLVED:** the Clerk is to write to all Pear Tree Marsh tenants. Clerk is also to draft some specific conditions or adding into the Allotment Rules.

High Fords

There was an issue with the tap which has now been resolved.

6. Update to waiting list and to approve plot allocation.

The following was noted:

Waiting list:-

Icklesham – 1

Rye Harbour – 1

Pear Tree – 0

Cricket Field - 0

Plots allocated since the last meeting:-

RH29, RH2 and RH4

The tenants on CF27a and HF1 have given notice. Rob Brown confirmed that the tenants of CF33 will also be handing in their notice.

RESOLVED: the waiting list and plot allocations were approved. Clerk is to advertise spare plots in the monthly magazine submissions. Clerk is also to include a paragraph in the new residents' pack.

7. Rye Harbour Allotments Walkway Flooding.

The Clerk explained that she had met Rob from the Romney Marsh Drainage Board back in January and he advised that the best way to deal with the flooding is to create a pond and build the existing walkway up.

The Clerk met a contractor who suggested building a walkway as an alternative solution. The Clerk has discussed this with Cllr McConnochie (who is the manager of a wetlands farm and so is an expert in drainage) and he agreed that the best way forward would be to build a pond. There is also funding available for this type of project from Rother District Council which is being awarded on a first come first served basis. The work could not go ahead until after nesting season (August) but it could easily be completed before the winter. **RESOLVED:** Clerk is to obtain quotes and costings for circulation to the Committee. Clerk will then apply for grant funding.

8. Pear Tree Marsh Water Supply.

The Clerk explained that she had organised a meeting with herself and Cllr McConnochie with the owners of Ferryfields. Unfortunately the meeting did not go ahead as the owner had forgotten. When the Clerk had spoken to the owner he was very unsure as he was concerned about the water pressure which isn't very good at present. The Committee then discussed other possible solutions. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk is to keep an eye out for possible funding sources for the well as there is currently no money in the budget for building the well.

9. Pear Tree Marsh walkway update.

The revised quotation from New Timber was tabled. It was agreed that this was too much as the funding we have received is based on New Timber's previous quote. **RESOLVED:** the Clerk is to look at other options to try and get it closer to the original quote (£820). This may mean that the Council may have to hire the machinery and purchase the materials in house so we can claim back the VAT.

10. To consider the attached co-working agreement for future co-workers.

RESOLVED: the co-working agreement was approved.

11. Suggested items for future agendas.

Clerk is to draft specific conditions for each Allotment Site (i.e. no overnight parking at Pear Tree Marsh and no sheds at Winchelsea Cricket Field).

12. The date of the next meeting: Monday 24th June 7.15 pm at Winchelsea Court Hall.

Agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Signed ...

Dated 24th June 2024