



DRAFT NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S ALLOTMENTS PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 3rd JULY 2019 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM AT THE CIVIC CENTRE AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT: Cllr P Barton (Chairman), Cllr N Pinnegar, Cllr J Turner, Cllr T Luker.

Co-opted members: A Burns, I Jones, B Elloway.

IN ATTENDANCE Administrator Mrs D Hyam **PUBLIC** None.

244. Election of Chairman It was proposed by Cllr N Pinnegar and seconded by Cllr T Luker with all in favour that Cllr P Barton be Chairman of the Allotments Partnership.

245. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. None.

246. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS. None expressed by members.

247. PUBLIC FORUM. None.

248. NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 20th March 2019. Proposed by Cllr N Pinnegar and seconded by Cllr T Luker and agreed all in favour that the Notes of the meeting held on 20th March 2019 to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

249. RESULTS OF THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE It was noted that following the results of the recent questionnaire the Knapp Field proposal would not be going ahead as it came low in order of priority.

250. PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO KNAPP ROAD ALLOTMENTS In order of priority to be put forward for consideration by the Town Council.

It was suggested that if a change in the covenant was possible within the budget constraints that the tenants would welcome the opportunity to have a shed on their plots for the following reasons:

- There would be somewhere to shelter from the rain, as at present if it rains many return to their cars and go home.
- Sheds would provide storage for equipment and tools, this would enable tenants to visit the site without having to use their cars benefiting their health and wellbeing.
- The reduction in vehicles would ease congestion in Knapp Road with a reduction of parked cars.
- Having this facility would encourage new tenants and therefore more revenue and less maintenance of vacant plots.
- Water butts could harvest the water from the roofs of sheds reducing water usage from stand pipes.
- The sheds could be used for potting up plants, encouraging tenants to spend more time on their plots giving them the opportunity to have social interaction with other tenants.

It was suggested that tenants provide their own sheds with strict guidelines on size, shape and colour. A local supplier could be contacted to provide sheds at a discounted rate to a particular design so that all the sheds are of a uniform specification to include Perspex or similar material for windows. Consideration needs to be given to the type of base permitted for a shed and tenants would need an information pack giving specifications, instructions etc.

If the budget would allow, the following items could be considered by the Town Council.

a) The top path at Knapp Road needs attention shoring up the bank to prevent slippage onto the path which needs widening.

b) The areas cleared next to plot 35, the bank and hedge long Knapp Road and inside the main gate last year need spraying to prevent regrowth.

c) Improvements to the area inside the main gate including a communal area for deliveries and to hold meetings, BBQs etc. The vacant plots in this area are relatively level making it ideal for disabled members of the community. This could be achieved by having raised beds with wide spaces between (for wheel chair access). It was noted that other councils in the area have completed similar schemes with grants to promote a healthier life style and help members of the community suffering and recovering from a variety of illnesses.

251. VACANT PLOTS There are 6 full plots and 1 half plot vacant at New Road and 2 full plots and 1 half at Knapp Road.

252. RESULTS OF RECENT ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS

New Road Letters have been sent to the tenants of plots 18, 19, 26 and 40 New Road. A great improve has been made to both 18 and 19. The tenant of plot 40 has decided to give up. The tenant of plot 26 has strimmed the area that was overgrown but no cultivation has taken place so a letter will be sent to ask if the tenant would agree to retain half the plot instead of the full allotment.

It has been noted that new tenants to plot s 41 and 28B have made no progress so they will be contacted.

Knapp Road Letters have been sent to the tenants of 19A and 19B. There has been some work and planting carried out on 19B but it will be monitored. 19A has been strimmed but very little in the way of cultivation has been carried out so a letter will be sent to suggest that they give up the plot. The new tenant of plot 32 will be contacted as no work has been carried out in recent months.

253. Report from Knapp Road It was noted that some new tenants are working well on their plots and notable improvements have been made.

254. Report from New Road

a) Concern has been raised about the use of weed killers on some plots. It has resulted in drifting onto neighbouring allotments and the main paths making them slippery due to the dead grass. Mrs Hyam will add this to the newsletter.

b) The path by plots 9 and 10 has become very sloped and difficult to negotiate, this needs to be levelled off.

c) A previous tenant that has given up a plot recently has offered to extend the water system to the end of plot 10B as he has a quantity of pipe available and is willing to bury the pipe in the path. This would be of great benefit to the disabled tenant of a nearby plot. Mrs Hyam to contact the previous tenant for more details.

d) It was asked if there was an update on the proposed development and car park at Symn Lane. The application is awaiting a final decision as finer details are being discussed such as car charging points and lighting.

e) It was noted that members of Wotton Garden Club benefit from buying seeds a discounted rate.

255. Date for Tenants Meeting 14th October 2019

256. Date for next Allotment Partnership Meeting 18th September 2019

Signed.....Chair of the Allotments Partnership

Date.....

The meeting finished at 8.30pm