



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

Allotment Tenants Meeting: Minutes

Monday 12 November 2018, 7.00pm, Liss Village Hall

Present: Councillor David Dodds (Chairman), Councillor Brian Mayo, Councillor Sue Halstead, Councillor Howard Linsley, Councillor Francis MacNamara, Assistant Clerk Frances Cook and 6 Allotment Tenants (1 from Kelseys and 5 from Lower Green).

1 Allotment Charging Increase

- 1.1 Following a brief introduction, the Chairman informed the meeting that the regime was remaining in place but that the new charges for next year had not yet been agreed. The Chairman explained that the rate was set by the Finance Committee which should have met on 5th November but postponed that meeting. The Chairman informed the meeting that tenants would be advised of the new rent when the allotment renewal letters were issued but that it is likely to go up from 17p to 18p psm.

Action: Assistant Clerk

2 Renewals for 2018

- 2.1 The Chairman advised that the new agreements would be sent out as soon as the new charges had been agreed by the Parish Council. **Action: Assistant Clerk**
- 2.2 The Chairman reminded the meeting that the signing of the tenancy agreement would need to be witnessed by an LPC employee and reminded the meeting that the Office opening hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am-2pm. The Chairman advised that alternative arrangements could be discussed with the office if necessary.

3 Vacant and Unworked Plots

- 3.1 The Chairman informed the meeting that there were currently 14 vacant plots which is the highest number of vacant plots he could remember. The Kelseys allotment holder advised that he had recently taken his plot and so had recently visited all the allotment sites. He stated that the vacant plots were overgrown and/or dangerous which is why they were not being taken. He suggested moving some tenants to clear sites which could then be used for other purposes. The Chairman informed the meeting that closing the sites was not really a possibility and that allotment holding was cyclical and numbers may pick up again. The Chairman informed the meeting that LPC has in the past given an incentive of lowering the rent or not charging if a plot is particularly overgrown when they take it on.
- 3.2 Following general discussion it was suggested that a series of allotment open days and existing tenants offering to act as "mentors" for those less experienced may make taking a plot more attractive. The Chairman informed the meeting that LPC would support any such initiatives but did not have the funds or resources to set up such initiatives. Ian James agreed to take on the role of allotment tsar. Jo Layton confirmed she would assist Ian James if he required assistance and a number of the tenants informed the meeting that they would be happy to help out at the Liss stall at the Village Christmas Fair to talk about allotments.

4 Open forum - issues/concerns from tenants

- 4.1 Padlocks: Half of the tenants attending agreed that the padlocks should be removed from the gates as they are of no use as people can climb over or squeeze round the gates. In addition a number of tenants do not take their reading glasses when they go to the allotments and so cannot read the numbers on the padlocks and in winter the cold weather makes them harder to turn and open. Following discussion it was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would ask all the allotment holders whether they thought the padlocks should be retained or removed to see what the general view is.

Action: Assistant Clerk

- 4.2 Paths: One of the tenants raised the issue of the state of the paths as tenants who fail to work their allotment are also failing to keep the adjoining path in repair and a good state. One allotment holder suggested putting up the fees to cover the cost of maintaining the paths or to have a deposit system so that when tenants leave a plot the deposit can be used to maintain the paths and clear the plot for the next tenant. The Chairman informed the meeting that some thought would have to be given to how this situation could be remedied.

Action: Grounds Committee

5 Any Other Business

5.1 The Chairman informed the meeting of the availability of free well matured horse manure and that details could be obtained from the Assistant Clerk.

5.2 The Chairman paid tribute to Mr Gerald Tribe who has had an allotment at Lower Green (Rake Road) for nearly fifty years but is now giving up for personal reasons.

6 Close

6.1 The Chairman closed the meeting.

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Chairman