

MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL ALLOTMENT MEETING HELD 3rd APRIL 2007 AT 7.15PM at the VILLAGE HALL.

1. **Present:** Cllrs Crisp, Turl & Westlake.
Allotment Holders: D Price, A & N Brown, R Wright, B & D Welch, J Butler, D Allen, R Pye, M Kirkbright, J & V Kilburn, H Clements, J Ford, I Smith & G Huffer.

Apologies: Messrs D Aldwinckle, R Taylor.

Cllr Crisp welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

2. **i. Minutes of Previous Meeting 4 4 06:** Agreed/signed as a correct record.
ii. Matters arising: Additional water trough. This would be discussed at a main PC meeting. Rats were still considered by some to be a problem. Cllr Crisp offered to take advice on how to deal with them. Mr Price commented that whilst the allotments provided the right environment for rats the solution was in the plotheolders hands. Mr Welch agreed. He considered there was more of a problem with mice due to the use of carpet to prohibit weed growth. It was noted that the new rules prohibited the use of carpet.

3. **Lettings/Vacant plots:**

The Clerk reported that all 40 allotment plots were full with a waiting list of two applications.

4. **Condition of Plots:**

Cllr Crisp advised that there would be an independent check of the condition of plots 3 times per year – in April, July and October. This will just confirm that reasonable care is being taken of the plots and that they are being maintained satisfactorily.

5. **Incidents of vandalism/theft:** None.

6. **Allotment holders' items:**

It was suggested that a representative of the allotment holders be appointed - Cllr Crisp agreed this was a good idea and that it would be helpful for them to attend PC meetings. The PC would welcome anyone put forward by allotment holders, as the sooner the PC is made aware of issues the sooner they can be discussed.

Cllr Westlake & Mr Huffer enter 7.25pm.

Mr Smith asked that the rule with regard to the locking of the allotment gate be clarified. When the question of the clarity of the rules was put to the allotment holders there was no support for the rule to be rewritten immediately. Cllr Crisp confirmed that the rule would be reworded for the next printing.

In answer to a question about the ban on the use of carpets, Cllr Westlake stated that he had been advised that problems were caused by nylon backed carpets, which, like plastic sheeting, are not biodegradable. (See item 2 ii).

During the general discussion on site tidiness and the cost to the PC of clearing up some vacated plots Cllr Crisp stated that whilst it would be preferable if allotments were left in good condition when vacated, there was no way to force previous tenants to pay.

Mr Welch asked about keeping chickens or bees and was referred to item 7 of the rules.

Mr Huffer asked about the hedge – Cllr Westlake agreed that this was now a problem. He had been trying to get work done on it for two years and suggested that the only way forward was for the PC to pay a contractor to deal with it in September as it now requires trimming along both sides and the top.

Meeting closed – 7.50pm