



CHIPPERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Allotment AGM Minutes

The meeting was held on the 26th June 2017 in The Small Hall, The Common, Chipperfield

DRAFT

To Councillors W. Bathurst, Cllr Laverack
In attendance Mrs C Butcher Clerk to the Council
Councillor Bathurst

16 allotment holders and members of the public

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced details of fire arrangements should the building need to be evacuated.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Sue Tyler, Jenny Heusen and Mike Brankin

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous AGM on the 20th June 2016 were distributed and approved, as a true reflection of the 2016 meeting.

4. ACCOUNTS

Cllr Bathurst informed holders that the old gate had been sold on ebay, however the accounts were still in deficit due to expenditure of the tree felling (£300) and hedge cutting (£259) It was announced that following a council meeting it had been agreed there would be no increase in rents in October.

A plot holder queried the deposits of keys which was minuted in the 2016 minutes that holders were happy not to have their key deposits returned. However the feeling was of some holders that the deposits should have been shown in the accounts. The accounts were prepared in the same format as previous years. The deposit money for allotments was queried, if deposits had been returned when holders have vacated. The Clerk stated that the deposit money was held in funds, if

an allotment holder had vacated and the plot left in good condition then the deposit was returned. The Clerk added that there were holders who had not paid a deposit, these are holders who have been there several years and the deposit system was not operating. If the plot was left overgrown, Andy was paid overtime for spraying/trimming etc.

Five allotment holders were refunded their deposits in the last year, also some pro rata rent was refunded. This was agreed to be fair by Cllr Bathurst and The Clerk and gesture of goodwill as the holder had suffered unfortunate circumstances and their plots had been left in excellent order.

5. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cllr Bathurst informed plot holders that weed suppressant had been bought and vacant Plots covered. This was queried by a resident. The Clerk informed holders that one remaining vacant plot had been sprayed by the ranger that morning due to excessive bindweed and would be covered this week. The nails which were used had not proved strong enough, clips were suggested by a resident, however Cllr Bathurst had used pieces of paving in most instances. Cllr Bathurst said she felt herself and The Clerk had done their best to resolve problems. Weed cover had been bought, also a new tap had been fitted and ample tap keys also bought. It was unfortunate and unusual that there were currently 5 half plots vacant, and by the end of September another 4 half plots would also become available.

The taps and water supply were discussed, and Cllr Bathurst explained there was a suspected leak in one area and it has been suggested the area needs to be dug up to locate the problem.

This lead onto the situation with the baths and safety factor. The holders all agreed strongly that the baths were essential, especially where the tap trickled. Their opinions were children should not be running around without supervision.

The visiting Muntjac was proving to be a nuisance in eating everyone's produce, and although the broken fence between Blackwells and the allotments has been noted and will be mended the muntjac has been seen jumping a high fence from the football field into the allotments. Unfortunately there is little that can be done.

OPEN FORUM

1. A resident asked the rules on lighting fires. Cllr Bathurst said it really was a case of common sense when having a bonfire.
2. A most productive competition was discussed, Cllr Bathurst asking what holders would like it judged on, variety of food was suggested. The time of end of August/beginning of September was decided and Cllr Bathurst will organise a judge and visit the allotments at that time. A resident commented how this encouraged holders.
3. It was suggested by a resident that the plots nearest the road be charged a cheaper rate due to the shaded area. It was agreed this would be put on the agenda at the September Council meeting.

4. The vacant plots were discussed, with some holders opinions that we had not advertised enough. Cllr Bathurst pointed out that 2 articles had been in Chip News, in December 2016 and March 2017
The Clerk has also spoken to Chris Pryce who runs several sites in Dacorum and he was made aware we have vacant plots should anyone be interested in this area. Cllr Bathurst had also liaised with her contact in Kings Langley and they are also aware we have vacant plots in Chipperfield.

It was suggested by a holder to advertise in Blackwells and on the gate to the allotments. The Clerk will undertake to do this asap. The Clerk stated that it is not Council policy to advertise outside of your Parish

Residents asked if they are permitted to spread the word in their villages, with Cllr Bathurst adding it is up to them who they talk to and what they personally put on social media.

There appears to have been some confusion with a holder saying a plot had not been cultivated for over a year when the Clerk had been liaising with the holder several times and clearing and burning had taken place. The plot had therefore not been covered as suggested it should have been. The Clerk and Cllr Bathurst will contact the holder as it was made clear a formal complaint would be sent in following the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.20

Refreshments followed the meeting