# **Minutes of the Allotment Committee meeting of Perton Parish Council**

# **Held at Perton Civic Centre Thursday 25th April 2024 at 6pm**

Date of meeting rearranged from Wednesday 24th April for personal reasons.

## **Present:**

Councillors – P Davis (Chairman), Mrs R Heseltine, K Elder and D Glynn

Residents - Mrs S Horrobin, J Powell, R Snape

Other: Mrs B Hodgetts (Parish Clerk)

## A24/23 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received.

## A25/23 - DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

No declaration of disclosable pecuniary and other interests received.

## A26/23 - MINUTES OF MEETING

**Resolved** that the minutes of the allotment meeting held on 27th March 2024 having previously been distributed, were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

## A27/23 – SITE

1. Management of site
2. It has been **Resolved** that the current Committee members would monitor on the ground issues until the site is more established.
3. It was **Resolved** that the committee would be emailed any structure requests to consider. Plot holders to be considerate on the siting of structures.
4. To recommend to Full Council that a suggestion box and notice board be purchased.
5. A plot holder has requested to put a bee hotel on the site. **Resolved** to allow this. The resident also asked if they could plant some trees on the spare ground at the rear of the site. **Resolved** that not at this point as it is unclear what will be happening to this section at present.
6. There is a mound of soil at the edge of the site – at the moment there are no plans for it.
7. Plot holder suggestions:
8. It was agreed to install a notice board on the exterior of the toilet building . It was **Resolved** that an example shown to the committee should be requested from the Parish Council at a cost of £240 + vat. It was also agreed that a suggestion box should be made available at a cost of £27.49 + vat.
9. Plot holders have asked if the boundary fence could be used. It was **Resolved** that it could be used for pollinators.
10. It has been requested that Dogs be allowed on the site. It was **Resolved** that dogs would be allowed as long as they are kept under control.
11. Cultivation of plot 59. This plot was very wet and not suitable to rent out. Soakaways have been installed. It was agreed that the plot will be cultivated to assess its suitability in the future and also keep the land under control. There will be no charge for this.

The uncultivated area at the rear of the site may provide further plots. To ask the contractor for a quote when on site.

1. Compost -The cost from PRO Grow is £125 per bulk bag**. T**his seems expensive. The soil conditioner is currently out of stock.

Clerk to look at the cost of providing manure from the farmer in Bilbrook.

The use of the main track to be used for delivery/drop off of heavy/bulky items only was discussed. It was **Resolved** that the track could be used but no parking. There may be a need to hire a whacker vibrating plate to repair the path periodically.

1. The use of compost bays was discussed. Plot holders are putting stones and rubbish in one of the bays which will not rot down. It was **Resolved** to organise a skip to remove this.

General waste to be taken away from the site by plot holder.

Some plots have their own compost bin.

1. The provision of a community meeting space / building was discussed. **Resolved** to look at this in the future, see how the first 12 months goes.

Storage for wheelbarrows or communal wheelbarrows was discussed. **Resolved** that this is the responsibility of the plot holder, the Parish Council will not be providing any wheel barrows.

1. The compost toilet will be available from 1st May. Maintenance and instructions will be made available. Plot holders need to make sure that the toilet is locked when the last person leaves the site. Committee members to be shown the maintenance and use of toilet.

It was brought to the committee’s attention that the gates were locked when there was someone on the site. They were not able to operate the padlock from the inside. **Resolved** the Clerk will look at cutting a panel in the gate to allow access from both sides. Emergency phone numbers to be put on the notice board. Sign to remind people – first person in open the gate and toilet and last to leave, lock the gate and toilet. There is a What’s app group for plot holders.

## A28/23 – SPEAKERS

It was suggested that a speaker specialising in vegetable growing. Clerk to get further information.

## A29/23 – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The following suggestions were received:

1. The site section should always be on the agenda.
2. The issue of first aid kits was discussed. First aid kits should be the responsibility of the plot holder.
3. The possibility of a Defib was discussed. There are insulated cabinets and renewable energy ones available but both come at a cost. Clerk to contact the golf club to see if there was the possibility of theirs being accessible.
4. Installation of renewables.
5. Additional areas of land that could be used for further plots

## A30/23 – DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

## Resolved - Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday 29th May at 5pm

**Meeting closed at 7.18pm**

Signed ………………………………………………………………… Date: …………………………………………

Chairman