

Burbage Parish Council

Allotment Working Party

Date: Wednesday, 26th June 2019 @ 13.00

Venue: Burbage Millennium Hall

MINUTES

1. **Members present:** Cllrs Richard Flemming, Ann Hall, Mick Hall and Barry Walker.
In attendance: Mary Harding, Martin Mellor and Rachel Parrish.
2. **Election of Chairman:** Cllr. Richard Flemming proposed Cllr. Ann Hall, and this was seconded by Cllr. Barry Walker. All present agreed that Cllr. Ann Hall be elected Chairman of the Allotment Working Party.
3. **Appointment of Minute-taker:** Cllr. Flemming volunteered to be minute-taker.
4. **Future Allotment Working party meetings:** It was agreed that this would be on an *ad hoc* arrangement depending on season/weather.
5. **Awarding of the Pat Armstrong Best Kept Allotment Award:**
 - 5.1: It was agreed that Cllrs. Flemming, M. Hall and Walker would act as judges. It was also suggested that we see if we can recruit two independent judges; one from HBBC and the other from Thurlaston Garden Centre. **Action: Rachel to contact HBBC and Thurlaston Garden Centre to see if a member of staff is willing to take on this roles.**
 - 5.2: It was agreed for the 2019 award that judging of those plots who have put their name forward for judging would take place during July and September. For 2020 onwards, judging will take place January, April, June and September.
 - 5.3 Cllr. Flemming agreed to search for a judging criteria for assessing allotments, e.g. RHS.
 - 5.4 Rachel will draft a design for the plaque for the winning allotment
6. **Pond Policy:**
 - 6.1 The Parish Council had received a request from one of the allotment holders to create a pond within the plot. This was discussed and it was agreed that on ground of health and safety not to permit the creation of ponds on any of its allotments.
 - 6.2 The working party therefore recommends that the Council's Allotments Policy (terms and conditions) be amended to state clearly that no ponds will be allowed on any plot.
7. **Untidy/overgrown plots:** Martin provided the members present with photographs regarding plots that were causing concern: five on Woodland Avenue allotments and one on Blackways Meadow allotments. Plots involved were: 11,22, 26 (double plot), 41 and 49 (Woodland Avenue) and Plot 9 (Blackways Meadow). It was agreed that members would visit the allotments following the meeting to review these and other plots.
8. **Report from PCSO Darren Stretton:** The working party was presented with a report from PCSO Darren Stretton concerning recent break-ins on Woodland Avenue allotments. The report contained actions undertaken by the police regarding these break-ins. The

working party would like to pass on its thanks to Darren for his prompt actions and discussions with allotment holder to try and reduce thefts from garden sheds.

- 9. Allotment visits:** Cllrs. Flemming, Ann Hall, Mick Hall and Barry Walker, with Cllr. Attenborough, Mary Harding and Rachel Parrish in attendance, visited Woodlands Avenue allotments and were pleased with the current state of the majority of allotments. The group visited those allotments of concern and it was agreed that the appropriate letter be sent to each allotment holder (Plots 3, 11, 22, 23, 26A, 41, 49 and 63) requiring them to improve the condition of their allotments.. Cllrs. Ann Hall and Barry Walker, with Cllr Attenborough, Mary Harding and Rachel Parrish in attendance, then visited Blackways Meadow allotments and it was agreed to issue letters to the holders of Plots 9,10 and 11, whose plots were overgrown; with a letter of encouragement to holder of plot 7, who had started to cultivate their plot. Holders of plots 4 and 5 will be sent letters requesting them to clear rubbish of their plots
Cllrs Flemming and M. Hall gave their apologies and left the meeting after visiting Woodland Avenue allotments.

Richard Flemming