

WHEATHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Allotments Committee

9th June 2008

Present: Cllrs. Walford (Chairman), G. Clark & J. Turner with Mrs. Cheale (Folly), Mr. Copeland (Baxendale), Mr. Wade (Hitchens) and Mr. Wing (Glebe)

In Attendance: The Clerk, Mrs. B. Green

- 1) The minutes of the previous meeting which had been circulated to all members were adopted. (Proposed Cllr. Walford, seconded Cllr. Turner). Agreed unanimously.
- 2) Hitchens Field – The conifers and fallen tree still need to be cleared. Brambles need to be cleared from the back of the car park area and the land rotivated. This will create one/two new plots.
Plots to be re-aligned at the end of the season. Plots not being worked – 32, 39, 45 & 61. Letters must be sent requesting tenants to start cultivating or they will have to relinquish the allotment. In future, all new tenants when given an allotment must receive a letter which states work must be started on the land within one month from receipt of this letter. The field representative will report back to the Clerk on the progress. Clerk to e-mail field representatives of new tenants.
Any plot being re-let must have the grass cut down. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, tenants not working their plots will be removed and a portion of rent returned to them (i.e. months left out of 12).
It was agreed that new wording be added to the list of Allotment rules and regulations regarding the working of allotments.
It was agreed that more people might prefer half a plot. This would help reduce the waiting list. A notice is to go on the board at Hitchens requesting tenants not to use noisy machinery before 9am on Saturdays and Sundays.
A further notice is to go on the board requesting that children and dogs are to be supervised at all times.
- 3) Glebe Field – A new tenant has requested permission to have chickens, a pig, geese, ducks a pond and a dog on his allotments. Members agreed to the chickens and pig (proposed Cllr. Walford, seconded Cllr Turner), but decided they would like to wait and see how it works out with this livestock. It was also agreed that a letter be written to the tenant, requesting that the land be returned to its natural state and the plot cleared if he gives up. Wood chippings would be very welcome at this site. Plot no. 3 needs the grass cutting down. Clerk to contact Mr. Dawes. This plot has been re-let.
Note: Mr. Goodchild has given up his plot so this can also be re-let.
Note: Tenant of one of the newly created plots has not started working it, but he has informed the Clerk that he will be doing so. Field representative to be given his details.
- 4) Folly Fields
Paddock – Mr. Scutt to be asked to look at the fencing at the top by the gate into the field. The fence is leaning against plots 27/29/31.
The small hawthorns between plots 31/33 to be cut out and burnt.
Brambles between nos. 24/26 also need clearing.
Letters to go to tenants of no. 8 (re cultivation) and no. 6 (hose pipe left on).

4) Continued.....

Letter to also go to tenants of plot no 12 regarding the lack of control of their dog which roams over the allotments. The letter must be very firm as this is a persistent problem. Future thought must be given on approaching tenants who are making the allotment an extension of their garden.

5) Baxendale – All plots are in use and in good shape. The gate has now been unlocked for some time but this does not appear to be a problem.

EDF has left debris behind after recent works on the site. Letter to be written to Mrs. Nugent explaining that the allotment will not be re-let to her at the end of March 2009 now that she lives in Essex.

Clerk to provide field representatives with the names and addresses of plot holders. Consideration to be given at looking at an area for cars to park.

6) Allotment Association – This is a non starter. There have been no replies to the article in the April Pump.

7) Quotations to extend the water pipe in Glebe and Hitchens – These were far too high.

Clerk to obtain further estimates.

Mr. Copeland left the meeting at 9.20pm.

8) Allotment Inspection for Annual Prizes – 6.30pm on 30th June. Meet in Glebe Field.