

Minutes of the Allotment Holders Meeting – 28 April 2009 – 6.30 – 7.30pm

Present: Mr Alan Whitney (OPC chairman), Mrs L Harley (OPC Clerk), 28 allotment holders.

Apologies were received from Jeff Dawe, Sheila Wellman, Pam Dyas and Neil and Eric Thomas.

Update on last year's actions:

The Clerk stated that the decision regarding expenditure of S106 funds set aside for rural allotments should be made by the borough council over the next couple of months and that money should become available for the following works to be undertaken over the summer:

New vehicle gates at the Kercher's Field access (to include a pedestrian gate for everyday use).

New fence on western boundary of allotments (the decaying vegetation required removal before this was done).

Three new troughs adjacent to existing to provide more water.

Clerk to keep allotment holders up to date via the allotment noticeboard.

The hedge on the northern boundary had been cut in the summer of 2009 and the Clerk agreed that this would continue to be maintained on an annual basis. The hedge on the western boundary was owned by the houses in Kercher's Field. The Clerk agreed to write to all owners to ask if the hedge could be reduced in height – the hedge would also be faced off on the allotment side. **PLEASE COULD ALLOTMENT HOLDERS MOVE ANY ITEMS THAT ARE STORED AGAINST THIS HEDGE.**

A new chain had been purchased for the top gate and the catch has been mended on the bottom gate.

The renumbering of the individual plots was discussed and it was agreed to continue to use breeze blocks. The Clerk agreed to source and paint new breeze blocks for each plot.

Action Clerk.

Mrs Gough stated that she might be know of someone to provide a trailer load of manure in the autumn (price circa £50.00) and this could be used by all.

Action Mrs Gough/Clerk

New actions

It was noted that both padlocks were getting worn and it was agreed to purchase new padlocks and keys when the gate was replaced.

Action Clerk.

It was noted that allotment holders were getting locked into the site – particularly at the bottom gate when the padlock was left on the outside. It was also noted that a man who was not an allotment holder had been seen at the site on more than one occasion. **It was suggested that the gate should be kept locked even when people were on site** as his presence had been intimidating.

It was agreed to hire one more skip this season – **FOR ALLOTMENT WASTE ONLY!**

It was noted that there was still a gap in the hedge adjacent to plot 15a and that this should be closed.

Catherine Terry (plot 10a) agreed to take over the allotment liaison. She suggested that people leave messages on the noticeboard until her contact details were circulated by letter.