

Date: 14 July 2020

Present BSC :Cllr Keith Lomax, Cllr Carol King,
Allotment Holders: Allen Keep - Secretary of allotment committee, plus 2 allotment tenants

Path up from road, well maintained, dog poo signage in place. Allotment holders have put a nice friendly box by the entrance for passers by to take free surplus. Communal fruit bushes in front of the south boundary appear healthy. Wild flower area has been sown and being left to develop.

A seedling oak tree to the west side of the 'wild flower' area is becoming a nuisance to fruit trees. Agreed that it should be cut down before it gets bigger. Action Allotment committee

The grassed communal area at the north east corner of the site behind plots 1 -3 remains grass, which had been cut. Is otherwise unused and allotment holders mooted possible place for a communal polytunnel. This is something the allotment committee could discuss and come back to the PC if they wish.

Some rotting wood has been stashed at the corner as a hedgehog haven.

Boundaries: the wooden fence on the east border is leaning into the hedge more than last year. It was put there before the existing hedge was there, but the hedge is now very well established and thick. The fencing isn't causing a problem yet, but it was agreed that the allotment holders could remove the leaning section if they want to, and clear the unwanted growth coming underneath it that will encroach into the allotments. Action: allotment committee

To the north of that wooden fence the old wooden fencing is being pushed into the allotments area. It needs one or two stakes putting in to hold it back. Otherwise it is a useful fence to help keep animals such as dogs out. Action : allotment committee

The fence along the east border is being pushed out a bit at the bottom and this needs an eye being kept on it. Allotment holders should avoid putting more stone there that pushes the fence out any further.

The allotment committee organizes working parties and this year there has been a lot of work replacing and upgrading water butts and their support. There is now an array of well functioning water butts fed from guttering on shed and greenhouse roofs. The water bill may be a bit higher due to having to use the tap when the water butts were being replaced and brought back into use.

The community shed is in need of the roof being re-felted. On the back side the wooden roof is significantly exposed and it is becoming exposed on the front side. This needs to be done preferably before this coming winter. Action : allotments committee.

The woodwork needs treating, and some repairs to keep the rain out.

It was originally a second hand shed and has done well, all considering. But worth maintaining.

A shrub pushing through the fence at the front of plot 7, covers the path and forces people to walk onto the plot. It would be best to cut this back. Action: allotments committee.

The plots appear to be on the whole well used, well maintained, and productive including some lovely wild flower beds.

One of the allotment holders has moved their compost bin to the back of the shed, giving more space for growing, which seems like a good idea.

Plot 1 – untidy with nettles and grass growing in the cultivation plots. The pathway to the west side has been allowed to spread into the cultivation plot and should be cut back. That said, the plot is cultivated to an extent and probably within the gtenancy criteria.
required extent of cultivation tenant working, plot used well with variety of fruit, veg and flowers.
Shed and greenhouse in good condition.

Plot 2 - looking productive and well maintained. Shed and greenhouse good condition

Plot 3 - greenhouse and shed OK. The plot needs attention, but the tenant suffered serious flooding in February and is also a carer/paramedic so it has been a particularly difficult year for him. He had offered to give up the plot but other ploholders are very supportive that he should carry on with it and 'we all have bad years'.

Plot 4 - well used, shed and greenhouse, no problems

Plot 5 - well used and productive, shed and greenhouse in good condition.

Plot 6 - good productive plot

Plot 7 - The greenhouse has been completely refurbished by the new tenant, and he has started working through the plot removing vast amounts of stone and restoring the full width. He is doing a thorough job to develop this plot which has historically been a difficult one to manage and with poor soil.

Plot 8 well used, neat paths. Shed and greenhouse ok. The water butt could do with better support as the pallets are collapsing.

Relations between the allotments committee and the parish council are good and mutually appreciated.