

## **Draft Minutes of the Blackshaw Parish Allotments Committee Meeting held on Monday 29 September 2014 in the Council Chamber, Hebden Bridge Town Hall**

**Present:** Cllr. Steve Hoyle, Ana Gonzalez, Donna Goodman, Jenny Baker

**In attendance:** Maggie Boyle

Donna Goodman was elected to Chair the meeting in the absence of Bob Greenwood.

- 1. Apologies for absence – June Evans.**
- 2. Declarations of interest in matters on the agenda - None**
- 3. To confirm minutes of the meeting of the Allotments committee on 17.3.2014 - Confirmed.**
- 4. To receive information about matters arising from the minutes of meeting on 17.3.2014.**
  - 4.1.** It was reported that the Allotments group was now insured with Tennyson as the premium offered was cheaper than the previous year.
  - 4.2. To consider whether approach to managing Himalayan Balsam has been successful –** It was reported that it had been easy to deal with the Balsam during the June working party and that this should happen again next year.
  - 4.3. Plot numbers –** The Clerk has to purchase a No.1 for plot 1.
  - 4.4. Shared tenancies –** Three joint tenancies applied for had been agreed and the tenancy agreements signed by both tenants.
  - 4.5. Inspection and working party in June -** It was agreed the next working party and the annual inspection should be in June 2015.
    - 4.5.1. To consider whether any maintenance is required –** A fence post was in need of repair. Naze Cottage fence was leaning - the Clerk would ask Cllr Davies to approach the owners about how to go about repairing it. Cllr. Hoyle agreed to make some more animal proof cages for fruit bushes. The Clerk will create a laminated sign as agreed at the last meeting.
- 5. To receive a report of progress from the Charlestown Allotments Group and future action plan -** The report picked up the themes of the September Allotment Group meeting. The tarmac over the water meter has now been removed. The group agreed that extra water butts could be placed behind greenhouses. A resident on the waiting list had moved out of the area and had been removed from the list. The group had decided that in the case of joint tenancies, both/either of the tenants could attend meetings of the group but would only have one vote between them. The purchase of a strimmer had been discussed and H&S and insurance issues considered. The group would also look into the cost of using a contractor before a decision was taken. The Clerk would check that the Tenancy agreement did not preclude the use of a strimmer. The group has not renewed their web space and one member has now set up a Facebook page for the group which is working well (recipes and tips on growing are being shared.) BOGS members visited the allotments and some group members have attended BOGS meetings. The next meeting of the group will be in December.
  - 5.1. Report from Allotments Group on budget and balances –** The balance of the Allotment Group accounts was £125.77 1/9/14 each member of the group having contributed £10 to cover incidental costs.
- 6. To consider removal of rubble and bricks –** It was suggested that a wall could be built of the big stones and brick could be used for making raised beds.
- 7. To consider safety of plot holders working alone -** The group will look into using a lock and chain that to lock the gate when someone is on the Allotments.
- 8. To consider request to go on waiting list -** The request from a resident of Cambridge St. was considered by Councillors at the last Parish Council meeting. Councillors agreed that only requests from within the Parish boundary and the small number of houses in the terraces on the A646 between Ingle Dene and Thistle Bottom would be accepted.
  - 8.1. All rent payments are up-to-date.**
  - 8.2. Water bills –** The new water bill was £22.46. The Clerk will arrange for a cheque to be sent to YW. The rent paid will cover the water bills this year.
- 9. Dates and venue of future meetings –**16 March 2015 Hebden Bridge Town Hall