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# **BLACKSHAW PARISH COUNCIL**

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## **Draft Minutes of Allotments Committee Meeting**

**8pm, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** The Town Hall, St George's Street, Hebden Bridge, HX7 7BY

**Present: Rosemary, Bob, Cllr Goodman, Cllr King, Cllr Moss**

1. Apologies for absence. **Melanie, June, Allison and Allen.**
2. Declarations of interest in matters on the agenda. None
3. Confirmed minutes of the meeting of the Allotments committee on 8/10/18.
4. Information about matters arising from the minutes of meeting on 8/10/2018. Query raised about whether ploholders are members of committee – Clerk explained that three named ploholders are part of committee, Bob, Rosemary, Allen, but all can attend.
5. Discussed the issue of dog mess on the allotments banking and elsewhere. Not known who culprit is. Allotments group had discussed writing a letter, but this is maybe too broad a brush. Catherine to make a couple of notices. Clerk to ask Calderdale for a dog poo sign. Agreed to designate budget up to £30 to buy an official sign. Bob to look into NSALG
6. Discussed the trees and the possibility of a tree survey. Perhaps Calderdale's tree officers offer a service, and could advise as to whether need an official inspection. Some suggestions include Ian Clarkson, and Georgina for a quote. Could ask Roger Greenwood (Heptonstall Clerk) who they use. Agreed to undertake to investigate the different options of getting a tree survey. In the meantime, members of the allotment group will undertake a visual inspection, but are not qualified to make any decisions. Any expenditure on this to be taken to parish council.
7. Representation on the Parish Council. Clerk explained that current council has no representation from Charlestown area, and council would like to change this situation. Ploholders asked to consider this, and whether they know anyone who could be encouraged to stand in upcoming elections.
8. Report of progress from the Charlestown Allotments Group and future action plan: Work day planned on June 1<sup>st</sup> for the communal areas – will involve things like Himalaya balsam, mending fences, sheds etc, with shared lunch. Collective seed buying event has happened. Question about the himalaya balsam, and whether an approach to neighbour whose land it is encroaching from. Also brambles. Been discussing how to make sure we have full water butts this year. Weather was exceptional last year. Possibility of water butts also on the communal shed. Cllr Goodman suggested that as this year has been a good year, and site looking as good as it has ever been, perhaps the group could enter the allotments competition. Rosemary said would need to bring up at allotment group meeting (the meeting has just happened, so next one) to test the water for enthusiasm. Also suggested that the strimmings could be composted to improve soil. Site could cope with more compost bins. Could enter produce into the Fete produce competition.
  - 8.1. Report from Allotments Group on budget and balances. Received written budget and balances. Balance of £76.90. Query regarding insurance – Jenny pays this and everyone pays her back. This is okay with the auditor/accountant.
9. Discussed the contract for maintenance of communal areas – agreed 3 cuts per year.
10. Considered tenancy issues – Claire Duffield has resigned her plot number 2. This will be offered to the next person on the list, Jackie Stewart.
11. Financial matters: Rent payments - to be paid at this meeting  
Water bills – Paid up except Ian, Melanie will send in post, and new person to pay when taking tenancy.
12. Dates and venue of future meetings – Hebden Bridge Town hall, 7<sup>th</sup> October.