Date: 8 July 2021

Present: Cllr Helen Lacey, Cllr Keith Lomax, Cllr Carol King,

Allotment Holders: Rosemary Daley - Secretary of allotment committee (and others attending to their plots).

Path up from road, well maintained, dog poo signage in place. Allotment holders have a nice friendly sign by the entrance for passers by to take free surplus. Communal fruit bushes in front of the south boundary appear healthy. Wild flower area is well developed. Had been cut at the top to allow access to the fruit bushes, and it was noted that just the sloping bank area should be cut. Action: Parish Council – inform Dan the strimmer.

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 are getting some fruit bushes – apple and plum – suitably sourced locally.

In the south-east corner there is a nice ‘bug hotel’ that has been installed since last year.

Boundaries: the wooden fence on the east border is awaiting some support with post and post-mix but awaiting for a wasps’ nest to go. Action: plotholders

To the north of that wooden fence the old wooden fencing is being pushed into the allotments area. This is the neighbour’s fence so plotholders will liaise if needs be, but was felt this could come down given the well established hedge.

The sheds, greenhouses, and water butts are in good fettle and looking well kept.

The community shed has had some re-felting and is generally in good fettle.

Six out of the 8 plots are well used and cultivated including some wild flower beds. They are generally well maintained, with well used greenhouses. Plot 3 had been re-worked from scratch last year and new raised beds have recently been installed and it is close to completion.

The two plots that are not well cultivated are 1 and 7.

Plot 1 – Last year it was noted that this plot was untidy with nettles and grass growing in the cultivation area and the pathway to the west side had been allowed to spread into the plot and should be cut back. That said, it was noted at the time that the plot was cultivated to an extent and probably within the tenancy agreement. This year the extent of cultivation was of great concern and measurements taken showed that the required level of cultivation is not being met. The greenhouse was little used with just 6 tomato plants being cultivated.

Plot 7 - The greenhouse had been refurbished by the previous tenant and and is now in good use. The previous tenant had carried out a huge amount of removal of stones and was working to restore the plot to its full width. Now, a new tenant has been working on the plot and it is about 60% cultivated, with clear efforts being made to gradually bring back into cultivation the whole plot. It is noted that this plot has historically been a difficult one to manage and with poor soil.

The metal gate at the entrance has dropped at the outer edge and it has become difficult to adjust the bolts to lift it any more. The plotholders are going to try and raise it a bit by pulling back the top stay/hinge. The problem appears to be that the supporting post has given way a bit, and it is a heavy gate. It is likely to need replacement (or at least replacement support post) in a year. To be monitored. Action: Parish Council

The plotholders co-operate well and have a get together generally on Saturdays.

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