

Meeting of the Allotment Committee
Held on 20 March 2013

Present:- Cllr. A. Weightman. Also Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk), Frank Denard, Ian Caulfield and Gordon Baker.

363 **Apologies:-** Cllrs. G. Wilkinson, A.J. Markley & R.W. Allison.

364 **Declarations of Interest**
None.

365 **Exclusion of Press & Public**
None.

366 **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2012 were approved and signed as a true record.

367 **Waiting List**
There are currently 14 on the waiting list, with no vacant plots.

368 **Problems/Issues**
Drainage has been sorted out and water is now draining away. Broken tiles and some with posts through have all been replaced. 8 drains have all been rodded and repaired. The drain in Mr Laidlaw's plot was blocked by tree roots. The main drain had collapsed in Vicky Hopes allotment and has been replaced and rodded right up. Pumping main had been put in too high. There had been various broken tiles and missing pipe all of which have been replaced. It had taken Gordon Baker and another man 3 weeks at 35 hrs a week to do all the necessary work. The electric board had admitted the damage to the drain in Stanwix's field was their fault and a claim could be put in to cover – loss of produce, loss of rent, cost of putting the problem right etc. Mr Baker gave the Clerk a plan showing where all the drains are located on the allotments and an invoice for £1,088 for materials and labour. Item to be included on the next Town Council agenda - for the Council to consider reimbursing Mr Baker for his time etc and also submitting a claim to the electricity board.
There is an ongoing problem with tipping down in the bottom corner of the allotments and also a problem with dog fouling. Reminder to be included with the next allotment bills to go out.
Letter to be sent to United Utilities to request that the meter near the Albion be replaced as it is unreadable and the tap is no good. Tenants need to be aware of taps being left on, as it can lead to costly water bills. Concerns were raised about tenants not using allotments for what they are intended and not attending to their allotments. Letters to be sent to Vicky Hope, Amanda Oliver & Don Graham to ask if they still want their plots.

369 **Risk Management Review**
Following a recent risk assessment controls for the following required consideration:- Use of LPG and Smoke from fires. Some allotment holders have gas heaters. Tenants to be reminded that heaters need to be serviced. Tenants to use common sense when burning waste i.e. fires not to be too big, too close to fences or causing a nuisance to other tenants. Note to be included with the next allotment bills.

370 **Allotment Rents**
It was proposed that no charge be made this year as allotment holders had not had any produce out of the gardens this year due to the flooding. Some tenants have complained about the problem with flooding.

Signed..... Date.....