

Drinkstone Parish Council

Allotments

Report to the Ordinary Meeting Dated Monday 6th December 2021

Agenda Item; Councillor Portfolios

During the last month I have visited both sets of allotments and can report that the general condition is good on both sites. Water meter readings have been taken and passed onto the Clerk to report.

Following the last PC meeting the Trustees of the Allotment Charity met to discuss the proposal to potentially change the use of the land on Rattlesden Rd once the current lease expires in November 22. The feedback and wishes of the trustees is that the land should firstly be maintained in line with its original intention and should be made available to villagers for grazing or allotment land. It is also important that it remains a revenue stream for the Charity as the income subsidises the rent for allotment holders in the village. The trustees would like to advertise the availability nearer the time of the current lease expiring and agree a new rent with any incoming tenant. The trustees would also like to turn the land over to more allotments if sufficient demand is generated and a new long term tenant cannot be found. If neither of the above options can be realised then the trustees would like to invite the village to decide on any future use but be mindful that whatever is agreed the land should be returned easily to grazing or allotments

In addition a discussion took place regarding the future running of the charity and the allotments with a number of options being discussed, including the setting up of a trust or an allotment society. It was agreed that the charity as it stands still holds the same value as when it was established in 1987, although more can be done by the trustees to improve communication with the tenants. It was agreed that the trustees would hold a meeting and invite all existing

tenants to attend with a view to discussing how things can be improved and listen to any concerns of the tenants who will be invited to submit agenda items prior to the meeting. The Chair will arrange for the necessary communication to be sent out to tenants and book the village hall for a meeting in the New Year. It was also agreed that in the absence of a governing document which appears to have been lost or never created, a new document will be produced using various ad hoc materials minuting the history of the allotments and land to post on the Charity Commission website as a permanent record of the purpose of the charity.

Whilst together as a group the trustees also discussed the proposal relating to planning application DC/21/06053 and the impact the proposal will have on the perimeter of the allotments on Gedding Rd & Chapel Lane, namely the removal of hedges and the impact on land drainage. The trustees wish to make it known to the Parish Council that these concerns be taken into account when commenting as a consultee.

There are currently no people on the waiting list for Rattleseden Rd, however we have 2 waiting for a plot to become available on Gedding Rd.

Prepared by Cllr Edmondson

23rd November 2021