

Meeting of the Trustees of The Allotments For The Labouring Poor

Charity no 295860

12th November 2021

Present

Richard Edmondson (Chair)

Michael Lambert

Joyce Cocksedge

The meeting was called to discuss a proposal raised by Councillor Holborn to convert the land which has been held on a long term lease by Lucy Blake on Rattlesden Rd, into a community orchard when the land is returned in November 2022. In addition it has been agreed for some time that the purpose of the charity and its relevance should be discussed to ensure it still meets the needs of today and the future.

Regarding the land on Rattlesden Rd all of the trustees agreed that it 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. It was agreed that Richard Edmondson would feed this back to the Parish Council.

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 minuted 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, 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.