

## WEST BERGHOLT ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE

Notes of meeting held at 44 Pirie Road on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Present: Terry Claydon (Chair), Harry Stone, Lynda Robinson, Graham Welham, Mervyn Donnelly, Paul Walker, Norma Smith

1. Apologies of absence – Stuart Meadows
2. Terry Claydon was voted in as Chairperson. Thanks were given for all his time spent as Chair. Norma Smith was voted in as Secretary.  
Thanks were given to Harry Stone for all his good work as Secretary. He was presented with a selection of wine in appreciation.  
All others agreed to stay on the Committee. Paul advised that if someone else was keen to join the Committee he would be willing to step aside.
3. Review of previous minutes  
The T road line in front of the gate on New Church Road is proving difficult to arrange at this current time but may be possible in the future. In the meantime Terry will arrange for plastic signage to be placed on the gate regarding parking & also making it clear of the times when vehicles are not allowed on site. Other than the Private Property sign no other posters to be placed on the gate to distract from the key messages.  
The gate at this entrance has dropped. Two new posts maybe needed and/or a new gate in the future. In the meantime the raised ground level will be lowered making it easier to open the gate. Terry to look at costings.  
A reward for maintenance site Volunteers was agreed. An amount between £2.50 & £10 by way of a voucher to be used against plot rent will be offered based on tasks undertaken in the year (other than bonfire). If you are interested in helping with maintenance please contact Mervyn. Most email addresses & phone numbers of plot holders have now been obtained. These are important should something occur where urgent contact is needed.  
Stuart was not available to provide progress on our Facebook page.
4. Up to date plot map provided. We currently have 4 vacant plots & 4 people interested in taking one on. Encouraging that this is the best position we have been in for a while.  
Future possibility of a communal poly tunnel along the hedge by plots 47 & 48.
5. Future rents discussed & agreement a modest increase is needed. Amounts to be agreed at the next meeting in April.
- 5a. A complaint about smoke was received from a resident at our November bonfire. As a result in future there will be a strict rule regarding no burning of green/wet waste.  
To ensure this is adhered to no items are to be placed in the bonfire area until the fire is lit.  
New Environment laws may mean that we won't be able to hold bonfires in the future. We are therefore investigating hiring a shredder and we would encourage plot holders to compost as much waste as possible.
6. The Allotment & Charity Stall revised Constitutions were agreed.

## 7. Charity Stall

- £4087 was raised last year which is a tremendous amount bearing in mind the hot summer we had. Thank you to everyone for produce & donations.  
The money is being shared as follows  
Tom Bowdidge Foundation (Open Gardens) £1000  
Essex Air Ambulance (Open Gardens) £1000  
Five T's, St Mary's Church £650  
Heathlands Primary School £650  
West Bergholt Fete £150  
Alexandra Hopkins (Scout World Jubilee) £100  
Charity Stall Future Fund Generation £537
- It was agreed on the following recipients of monies for 2019  
West Bergholt Children's Playground  
West Bergholt Village Fete  
Five T's, St Mary's Church  
Charity Stall Future Generation Fund
- The Charity Stall accounts were reviewed. Now the Constitutions have been finalised  
Mervyn will progress the opening of a bank account
- Mervyn will form the Charity Stall Committee by advertising on the noticeboards. To be agreed by next meeting in April.

## 8. The rotovator needs repairing. The lawnmower has had problems & Terry will investigate a replacement.

Mervyn to make contact regarding the sit on mower offer.  
Colin & Mervyn will be tidying up the tool sheds.

## 9. The Christmas social event was considered a great success & feedback has been very positive. We hope this has helped create a community spirit between plot holders.

Norma to book the Main Orpen Hall for another event this year. Review at next meeting who will organise.

We will have two stalls again at this years Village Fete on the 13<sup>th</sup> July. Norma to organise a working group.

Consideration being given to a summer event on site such as a BBQ.

## 10. AOB

Concern has been raised about dogs on site.

Please remember to keep dogs under control, on short leads at all times, keep off plots & stop them from spoiling on produce.

An old compost bin has been donated & placed by the stall. Committee to keep an eye on what future items are placed by the stall.

## 11. Date of next meeting is 11<sup>th</sup> April, 19:30 at Vindens, Chapel Lane.

Norma Smith  
18/1/2019

