

**ST CUTHBERT (OUT) PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENT GARDEN
PLOT HOLDERS MINUTES HELD IN WOOKEY HOLE
COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2016,
7:00PM**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Ball; M Gaunt

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Simon Davies (Parish Clerk), Ms Michele Exton (Assistant Parish Clerk), 20 Members of the Public

Cllr Ball chaired the meeting.

The Parish Clerk introduced the Assistant Parish Clerk.

The Chairman and Parish Clerk both welcomed attendees to the Annual Consultation meeting with Allotment Garden Plot Holders. The Parish Clerk offered that consultation meetings could be held more frequently if requested.

01. TO CONSULT WITH GARDEN ALLOTMENT PLOT HOLDERS ON THE SALE OF THE PONY PADDOCKS

The Parish Clerk gave an outline of the progress of the sale and the legal process that had been followed to meet the requirements of the 1928 Allotments Act.

- There was a discussion about the triangle area at the northern end of the Allotment Gardens and maintenance of the hedgerows. The Parish Clerk explained that this land will become Council owned land but will not be designated as allotment land.
- Cllr Ball confirmed that there would be a boundary fence one metre from Allotment Garden plots running along the bottom of the bank and that there would not be general access to the pony paddocks.
- Access via the pedestrian gate at the southern end of the Allotment Gardens was discussed. Cllr Ball explained to the meeting that this access was currently being negotiated.
- Provision of a car park was discussed. The Parish Clerk explained that due to the costs involved, options would be considered once the sale had taken place. Plot Holders would like to be consulted.

02. TO ASK GARDEN ALLOTMENT PLOT HOLDERS TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON A NEW DRAFT TENANCY AGREEMENT.

The Assistant Parish Clerk explained that the New Draft Tenancy Agreement was based on the National Association of Local Councils Model Agreement (2013) and that review of this agreement by the Council will be ongoing as required.

General improvement of the site was attributed to the involvement of Cllr Gaunt.

Plot Holders raised the following issues:

- Clause 3 – The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Council do not operate a regulated allotment letting policy for rents and no one requested for this to change.
- Clause 7 g) - There were complaints that the Council employed maintenance contractor had damaged fencing around individual plots with a strimmer. The Parish Clerk will discuss this with the contractor.
- Clause 7 i) - There was a request to reconsider this clause.
- Clause 11 c) To be amended to “the tenant has not worked their Allotment Garden for a period of more than two months during the growing season”.

03. TO ENCOURAGE MORE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GARDEN ALLOTMENT PLOT HOLDERS TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN MAKING DECISIONS CONCERNING THE ALLOTMENTS

- The Parish Clerk identified that a contact name for feedback on the noticeboard had helped improvement of the site.
- Plot Holders were offered the opportunity to trial/join the informal onsite Working Party. There were no volunteers.
- Cllr Gaunt suggested a social event.
- The Parish Clerk outlined the option of Self-Management in the future.

04. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.