

MINUTES OF ALLOTMENTS MEETING – 6.PM 13TH JULY 2022 IN THE LOUNGE
OF SOMERCOTES VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Julian Bonfield, John Richardson, Martin Rumsby (Bridle Lane), Mark Hopkinson, Colin Addison-Lees (Birchwood Lane), John Lincoln, Lindy Kirk, Leanne Juffs, John Skidmore (Sleetmoor Lane), Cllr J McCabe, Cllr P Wardle, Catherine Hedley (Clerk)

1. Minutes of last Meeting – The minutes of the meeting held on the 20 January 2021 were approved. **Matters arising:** The cutback of Ash trees. Representatives from the BLAA commented that there was a tree overhanging the footpath on the allotment. Cllr McCabe requested that a photograph be sent for identification and C Addison-Lees agreed to do so.
2. Validity of meeting – C Addison-Lees raised the question of validity of the meeting as the chairperson had not been elected at the annual Parish Council Meeting. It was agreed that the matter should be raised at the next Parish Council Meeting in September and that the new Chairman would then decide the date of the next meeting. Cllr McCabe asked C Addison-Lees if he was happy to proceed with the current meeting and C Addison-Lees confirmed that he was. Cllr Wardle then chaired the remainder of the meeting
3. Management of allotment fires – A discussion took place around the arrangements for allotment fires at the different sites. It was suggested that a protocol might be developed between the three associations but this was not agreed. Cllr McCabe then stated that it would be placed on the agenda for the Parish Council meeting in September for Council consideration.
4. The Jim Spibey Competition. The Clerk requested contact details from the associations for the competition which were given. The date for the award ceremony was decided as Friday 30th September 2022.
5. Rents. The plot sizes and numbers had been received by the Clerk for consideration by Council at the September meeting.
6. **BLAA**
 - Letter sent to BLAA from the Parish Council dated 1st July 2022. – C Addison-Lees stated that the letter from the council was “wrong” as the allotment had not broken any rules. The Clerk pointed out that the letter merely advised of the complaints which had been received and had been sent as instructed by Cllr McCabe (the current chairman). C Addison-Lees stated that the complainant was a perennial and vexatious complainer. Cllr McCabe pointed out that the Council was obliged to respond to complaints from all sources.

- Position of the Parish Council with regard to its allotments. – C Addison-Lees requested clarity on the position of the parish council regarding allotments. Cllr McCabe requested that he clarified his request. C Addison-Lees responded that:
 - He had received a “oh no its you again” response when telephoning the parish office but did not indicate when this was said or by whom.
 - He complained that emails he had sent to the parish email address had not been responded to and
 - He felt that the Council did not provide support to the Birchwood Lane Allotment Association.

Cllr McCabe requested the C Addison-Lees forwarded details of the unanswered emails to the parish clerk and/or himself so that he could look into it and C Addison-Lees agreed to do so.

- Ingress of water from Birchwood Lane. – C Addison-Lees complained that there was still a water problem onto the allotment from Birchwood Lane. The Clerk agreed to contact DCC again and try to elicit a response.
- **LBLAA** (Leabrooks (Bridle Lane) Allotment Association) -The Council noted the revised allotment name and abbreviation on the PC tenancy agreement form

The meeting closed at 7.45pm