

CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

**INFORMAL REPORT OF THE ALLOTMENTS USER GROUP MEETING
TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2009**

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Chairman:	* Mrs M Jarrett
Councillors:	* Dr N O Eve
	Mrs B Green
	* Mrs A Hayward
	* R Kipps (ex officio)
	* P Kemp
	* G Liley
	S Watkins
	* Mrs J Worrall (ex officio)

* Denotes Member present.

Also in attendance: **Cllr Mrs M Hampton and Cllr M Green**

There were eleven allotment holders present.

MINUTES

09/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were four apologies with reports from Chris and Sandra Kemp (Horticultural Society) and John Sadler (Copmans Wick Allotment Representative).

09/02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

09/03 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd December 2008 were approved.

09/04 MATTERS ARISING

Confirmation was given that the gate and the standpipe issues at Copmans Wick had been dealt with.

09/05 PUBLIC FORUM

(i) COPMAN'S WICK

As he was unable to attend, Mr Sadler had provided a report in which he commented favourably on the improved maintenance of plots and the installation of the water tap. He raised the continuing problem of the unfenced section where produce and tools have been taken and the Chairman confirmed that the ownership of this fence was still under discussion with TRDC. After problems caused this year by staff shortages and illness, the grass has been cut regularly but needs to be cut earlier next year before the dandelions flower. Recently the fence on the Windermere Close corner has been damaged and the meeting confirmed that this fence is the responsibility of the residents of the Close. Some plots still remain without numbers.

Problems with the pedestrian gates will be looked into by the Parish Rangers. The issue of plots not being cultivated was raised. The meeting was advised that following a visit to the allotments by the Administrator, a number of letters had recently been issued to allotments holders (across all three sites) who were not cultivating their plots with a view to recovering them if no action was taken. A request was made for a skip at Copmans Wick. The costs and practicalities would be investigated. It was felt that there was room for additional plots to be established at Copmans Wick without hindering the Rangers' access to and within the site. This would be investigated further.

(ii) DOG KENNEL LANE

Mr McCarthy raised the need to have some signage requesting dogs to be kept on a lead within the allotments noting that this had been agreed at a previous open meeting with allotment holders. The issue of two Larch trees overhanging the site was confirmed to be in the Rangers' winter programme of work. Mr McCarthy had been pleased to see some plots being claimed back and raised a further few for investigation. It was also felt that there was room for additional plots to be established at the Dog Kennel Lane site which would be investigated. The possibility of the allotments having some sort of compost bins was raised and would be investigated although it was agreed that it was likely to be too late to get anything in place for this month and would be reviewed for next year.

(iii) THE SWILLETT

Similar issues to the Dog Kennel Lane and Copmans Wick sites were raised and will be investigated for all three sites. Mr Layzell raised an issue with the far corner of the site where quite dense undergrowth exists and advised that children were getting through which had resulted in some pilfering of produce taking place over the summer. The meeting was advised that the Council had done some work there last year but would look at it again. To address the issue of the water tap being left on at the site it was suggested that it could be addressed by the introduction of a valve that turned the water off automatically, similar to that used in Cattle feed troughs. The practicalities and costs of this would be investigated. The issue of some dogs being brought into the allotments not being kept under control will be followed up.

09/06 GENERAL

A request to reconsider the Council's policy on sheds was made. The Chairman advised that the council's policy had not changed and sheds were not allowed although she confirmed that tool boxes were allowed on allotments. It was also suggested that sheds attracted crime and were therefore undesirable. The possibility of some sort of shelter from the elements, the example being a plastic greenhouse, was discussed. The possibility of establishing Bee Hives at the allotments was raised and the practicalities would be looked into. To a request for chippings when trees were taken down the meeting was advised that the Rangers no longer had the chipper and that untreated chippings would not be suitable for the allotments anyway.

09//07 CLOSURE

The meeting, having commenced at 7.00pm concluded at 7.40 pm.