

**REPORT OF THE INFORMAL ALLOTMENT USERS MEETING
HELD ON 11TH JULY 2017**

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Tony Edwards

Councillors Jo Clark
Raj Khiroya
* Jill Leeming
* Alison Preedy
Martin Trevett
* Steve Watkins (ex officio)
Sarah Wright
* Jane White (ex officio)

* Denotes members present

Officers present Yvonne Merritt – Clerk
Claire James– Deputy Clerk
Laura Hamilton – Assistant Admin Officer

There were three members of the public present.

17/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Martin Trevett.

17/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION

None

17/03 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the informal meeting held on 8th March 2016 be approved as a true and correct record.

17/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Bees: It was noted that responsibility for the Bees at the Swillett lay with the bee keeper. Members were advised that she was a member of the West Herts Bee Keepers Association.

The Clerk advised that the fencing at the Copmans Wick site would be completed in the next three months.

The Allotment Administrator confirmed that signs about dogs were now in place at all three allotment sites.

17/05 REPRESENTATIONS FROM ALLOTMENT HOLDERS

An allotment holder from Copmans Wick raised the issue of deer at this site. She explained that the deer were getting in through a dip in the fencing behind the garages and causing considerable damage and devastation on the plots.

The allotment representative for the Dog Kennel Lane site raised an issue with the use of sprinklers left on overnight. He advised that he had visited the site the previous night and found that a sprinkler had become disconnected and the tap was left running onto an empty plot wasting a considerable volume of water. He suggested that the tenancy rules be amended to prevent or limit the use of sprinklers. In the meantime, it was agreed that the Allotment Administrator would write to the allotment holder concerned. The representative detailed several plots that needed warning letters regarding the lack of cultivation.

It was noted that a nearby property appeared to have dumped tree cuttings onto the allotments. The Allotment Administrator advised that she had informed the Rangers who would be investigating further.

An allotment holder at Dog Kennel Lane Allotments raised the issue of being surrounded by overgrown plots. The allotment holder from Copmans Wick advised that overgrown plots had been a problem at Copmans Wick but that it had been reduced by recent work at that site by the Rangers. She also advised that the deer and the foxes were often to be found sleeping in the long grass on the vacant plots so if the plots were cut it helped this aspect as well.

17/06 ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVES

It was noted that there were now two allotment Representatives in place, one at Dog Kennel Lane and one at the Swillett, both were happy to continue with this role. A representative for Copmans Wick was yet to be found.

17/07 CLOSURE

The meeting having commenced at 7.00 pm closed at 7.16pm.

Signed Date

These minutes were agreed as a true and correct record at the Open Spaces meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Signed..... Date.....