



## **Elsenham Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Allotment Committee held on 29 September 2023 at 7.30pm in Old Franks**

#### **Present:**

Mr. B Ogilvie (Chairman BO), Mrs. B Donald (BD),  
Mr. G Mott (GM), Mr. J Tickner (JT) and  
Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk LJ).

**1. Proposal BO is elected Chair of the Allotment Committee.**

GM proposed, BD seconded, the vote was carried unanimously.

**2. Apologies for absence, Mrs. M Jackson (MJ) and Mr. R Franklin (RF).**

**3. Declaration of Interests.**

BO has two allotment plots.

JT has two allotment plots.

**4. Approval of Minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by BO.

**5. Invoices for 2023/2024.**

LJ had sent out all the invoices for 2023/2024. On the invoices it stated that the fees are to be increased from 1 October 2024. Allotment plot at Church Lane will be increased from £32.50 - £36.00 and the fees for an allotment plot on Smith Road will be increased by an average of 25%.

All invoices should have been paid by 1 October 2023, LJ is still waiting for 36 tenants to pay on Smith Road and 8 tenants from Church Lane.

**6. Allocation and waiting list.**

Out of the 66 plots on Smith Road there are 5 available.

Out of the 22 plots on Church Lane there are 4 available.

This may change if tenants decide not to renew this year.

Once all the invoices have been paid, BD will put a post on Facebook advertising the available plots.

## **7. Farmers Market.**

A monthly Community/Farmers Market is held in the Village Hall, selling local produce from small independents. The Allotment Policy has been changed to allow tenants to sell any excess produce at the market with any fund being used for the benefit of the allotments.

JT has 2 tables at the market and sells fruit and vegetables, which he bags up and sells on behalf of the allotment tenants. JT is negotiating purchasing some 5-year-old manure from Daisy May's Farm. The manure will be placed in both allotment gardens and tenants may use it free of charge. If there are any excess funds JT will give them to LJ to be placed in an ear marked reserve for the allotments.

JT to contact MJ to ask if the Church Lane allotments would like to contribute to the farmer's market.

## **8. Budgets 2023/24.**

### **Church Lane allotments.**

Budget 4251 General Maintenance, have £700 left in the budget. All of this will be used by the end of the year on the strimming, weed killing (vinegar based) and covering of the 4 unused plots.

Budget 4253 Water Rates has £730 left. There should be one further water bill before the end of the financial year.

### **Smith Road Allotments.**

Budget 4256 General Maintenance have £1,453 left in budget. The taps all need repairing again, BD to action. The fence needs repairing, and a skip is to be hired at the end of October, plus any plots that are handed over may need strimming. Therefore, most, or all these funds will be used.

Budget 4257 Water Rates still has its full budget of £1,500 left. The last water bill for £948, was received in March 2023, despite LJ regularly recording a meter reading online.

## **9. Budgets 2024/2025.**

It was agreed to ask for the same budgets for the next financial year 2024/2025.

## **10. Any Other Business.**

The allotment grass cutting needs to be added to EPC's grass cutting contract, to be cut each time the village grass is cut.

LJ to email all the tenants regarding the break-in, asking them to report it to the police and reminding them about security with the gate and insurance cover.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.