

## Meeting of Desford Parish Council Allotments Working Group 02.10.19.

**Present:** Pat Crane, Ian Cunnington, Lynda Grimshaw, Nic Lockley, Julie Peel

### **Matters Arising from minutes of 09.09.19:**

- **Padlock keys:** The Clerk has been asked to write to the tenants of plot 1A and 35A to ask for a copy of the key(s). PC will ask if he has had a reply. We could include a request in the Renewal letters of these 2 tenants **Action: MB/PC**
- **Clearance of asbestos & old sheds:** The asbestos has been removed. IC & NL have moved the old shed to plot 12, ready for burning and will move the other one. Thanks to both for volunteering to do this
- **Fencing & gate:** DP is chasing the quote
- **Hedges:** have not been cut yet

### **DAGA:**

- **Insurance policy:** IC had circulated a copy of DAGA's second insurance policy
- **Allotment Site Designation:** is it statutory or temporary? The inventory for the deeds box does not list any allotment documents, but BG,DP,AS recall seeing a document some years ago. PC has asked MB to check in the box **Action: MB/PC**
- **Items raised at DAGA committee meeting:**
  - The treasurer was again absent and did not send a report
  - The tenant of plot 12 had not received his refund. LS has made several attempts to contact him. IC will take on this task **Action: IC**
  - The new tenants of plot 19A have not yet returned their form or paid the deposit. PC will write to them **Action: PC**
  - MP has agreed to weld the damaged container lock **Action: MP**
  - DAGA's insurance company say that a fire extinguisher is advisable if bonfires are allowed on the site. We will look for advice on the NSALG and other websites (*see below*) **Action: All**
  - Track: we recommend that full Council give permission for DAGA to get quotes for resurfacing the trackway and car park, using Gopla or similar material, so that grants can be sought
- The Allotment Strategy has been sent to DP with another invitation for members of the DAGA committee to make comments and to attend the next AWG meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November. PC will send a reminder 2 weeks beforehand **Action: PC**
- JC is organising a meeting to review the Produce Show and the Church Centre has already been booked for 2020

**Allotment Rules:** Following last month's discussion, the amended Allotment Rules had been circulated. These will be recommended to full Council and all tenants will be notified, when the Renewal letters are sent, and will also be reminded about their responsibility to keep paths clear and well maintained. We will ask DAGA to display a copy of the Rules in the Pod **Action: PC**

### **Renewal Letters:**

- The 2018 Renewal letter was reviewed

- It will be amended to give tenants the option to pay by BACS
- Resources Committee will be asked to review the rent for 2020 and the deposit. MB will be asked to provide the annual running cost of the allotments so that an informed decision can be made **Action: PC/MB**
- The AWG recommend that the rent stays the same, but the deposit is increased to £50
- Tenants will be asked whether their preferred method of communication is by e mail, phone or letter and for consent to hold this information
- They will be asked to read the amended Allotment Rules (on the website, in the Pod or by requesting a copy from the Clerk)

### **Letting Agreements:**

- The current letting agreement was reviewed and will need updating if Council approve any rent and/or deposit increase
- The size of whole/half plots need amending
- We recommend that a sentence is added: *The Council reserves the right to charge for clearing the plot in certain circumstances*

### **Members Exchange:**

- LG had been approached by 2 ploholders about the difficulty experienced by some people when unlocking the road entrance gate. The couple concerned go home if they find the gate shut, rather than attempt to unlock it. IC agreed to ask DP if it could be treated with WD40. DP will be asked to find out whether an alternative locking mechanism can be fitted to the proposed new gates **Action: IC/PC**

**Date of next inspections:** April 2020

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm at the Library (Apologies from LG)

The NSALG leaflet on bonfires says:

Avoid burning on windy days as the prevailing wind direction may blow smoke or sparks directly into neighbouring properties. Only burn dry material and NEVER burn household rubbish or anything containing plastic, foam or paint. Do not take rubbish to the site to burn. Never under any circumstances use an accelerator (e.g. petrol) to get the bonfire started. Never leave the bonfire unattended: always wait until everything has burned down before leaving the site. Never use water to douse a bonfire; it may appear as if the fire has been safely put out but the water only serves to superheat the ashes and they could re-ignite some hours later. When you have to leave the bonfire site always throw soil or sand over it to smother the heat source.