**Meeting of Desford Parish Council Allotments Working Group 04.02.20.**

**Present:** Pat Crane, Lynda Grimshaw, Nic Lockley, Colin Oakes, Julie Peel

**Apologies:** Ian Cunnington

**Matters Arising from minutes of 07.01.20:**

* **Padlock keys:** KW put an envelope through the library letterbox, but the key was not in it. The Clerk had written again. The Working Group recommend to full Council that the Clerk is asked to write to the tenants of Plots 1A and 35A again, advising them that if no key is received by Tuesday 3rd March, the padlocks on the gates to plots 1A and 35A will be removed and new padlocks purchased, with 3 keys: 1 for the tenant, 1 for the Clerk and 1 for the Allotment Working Group to use when doing the inspections **Action: MB**
* **Fencing & gate:** RTC have not started yet
* **Tree Inspections/stump removal:** Arboreco have not done the work yet. It is important that trees are pruned/removed before the bird nesting season **Action: LS**
* **Site designation:** the land is not registered with the Land Registry. When the notice boards have been removed from the cemetery hut, we will search the old filing cabinets**Action: PC/IC**

**DAGA:**

* **Installation of electricity:** further investigation is being carried out into solar power and the findings will be considered when available
* All tenants have renewed their membership apart from one. The Clerk will be asked to write to this tenant, requesting that they provide proof that they have insurance cover **Action: MB**

**Action Plan:**

* **Green Flag Award:** The criteria for parks were discussed and some were thought to be relevant for the allotment site. JP will type up these to provide guidance for a quality standard for the site. The draft document will be circulated **Action: JP**
* the other action points were reviewed
* some points need further discussion with DAGA and we hope that this will happen later in the year

**Vacant plots:**

* Plot 17A is vacant, but needs tree stumps removed. Half plots 6C and 31A are vacant
* LS had put forward a proposal that, if the tenant of plot 6 is prepared to swap to plot 31A, this would leave the whole of plot 6 available to use for a community plot. The tenant had been approached and agreed to consider the proposal, but no decision has been made
* LS provided a sketch plan and notes for a proposed Easy Access Plot. The working group like the idea of a community allotment; however, members felt that security on the site would be seriously compromised. The gates would have to be left open during daylight hours, so anyone could come onto the site. Further thought needs to be given to other areas of the village where a community plot might be established, where there would be open access The area fenced off at the front of the Primary School field was suggested and the school will be approached to ask if this could be considered. We hope that DAGA would still be actively involved. The flatbed which DiB hope to install on Holmfield Road could be cultivated by the community **Action: PC**

**Correspondence:** LS had put forward 2 proposals:

* To make a 3 sided enclosure for wood chippings, using scaffolding boards or similar. This was thought to be a good idea and will be passed to DAGA for consideration at their March meeting. NL suggested a notice, informing plot holders that they can help themselves **Action: PC**
* To reorganise the paths which give access to plots 31, 32 and 33. It was agreed to hold a site meeting to look at the current arrangement of paths and inequality of plot sizes, and the possible solution. DP to be invited **Action: PC**

**Members Exchange:**

* RP to be asked whether he wants to install a beehive this year **Action: PC**
* JP said that a post between plots 25 and 26 was rotten. This will be looked at on the site visit

**Date of site visit:** Friday 14th February 1.30pm

**Date of next inspections:** April 2020

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 3rd March 7.30pm at the Library