**Meeting of Desford Parish Council Allotments Working Group 07.07.20. by zoom**

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

**Matters Arising from minutes of 03.03.20:**

* **Padlock keys:** code received for plot 35A and key for plots 1A &1B
* **Gate:** not thought to be a problem
* **Stump removal:** completed

**Site designation:** MB recommends that we register the Allotment site with the Land Registry. This will involve legal help; with financial implications and the Resources Committee will discuss at their next meeting**Action: MB**

**Easy Access Plot:** a discussion paper had been received from Jo Vavasour, a DAGA committee member. DAGA will discuss this at their next meeting. Points to consider:

* a half plot will only have room for 2 raised beds with 1.2m paths round
* these should be at table height with space beneath for a wheelchair to tuck in
* an area with a bench for sowing and potting
* a small shed for tools
* LS obtained 3 quotes in Feb/March. It would be useful to find her plan
* We need to find out what demand/interest there might be. This could be a survey of current plot holders and also perhaps of all parishioners in a DPC newsletter
* Evidence of consultation will be needed when applying for grants
* NL suggested we ask the Primary School about the possibility of sharing their garden with the Gardening Club. There may be safeguarding issues, but PC will talk to LS and the headmaster **Action: PC**

**DAGA:**

* **Solar panels project:** the application for an Awards for All grant has been delayed whilst grants are focussed on covid related projects. A new plan needs to be submitted to the Parish Council as the proposed alignment of the container & pod has changed **Action: DAGA**
* **Rodent control:** the Clerk had obtained a quote and will be asked to progress this. Plot holders are setting their own traps for moles **Action: MB**
* **Access paths:** the width of 1.2m is unrealistic. The Allotment Rules will be amended to say “wide enough to take a wheelbarrow” **Action: PC**
* **Snakes:** it was agreed that there was no need to take any further action other than alerting plot holders to the possibility of coming across one
* **CCTV:** DAGA will be informed that the Parish Council are no longer proposing to install a camera at the cemetery. When solar power is available, DAGA may wish to re-consider whether a camera is necessary
* **Track:** in the opinion of the AWG, the track is adequate for vehicles observing the 5mph speed limit

**Action Plan:**

* the safety and security audits were completed as part of the monthly inspection
* the issue of children playing on the site (both on the car park and on top of sheds) has cropped up during the lockdown period. Whilst we want to encourage families and children to take an interest in gardening and growing food, it is imperative that children are restricted to their own plot and are supervised at all times. A clause will be inserted in the Allotment Rules, which will then be circulated **Action: PC**

**Inspections and waiting list:**

* there are now 6 on the waiting list
* one tenant will be asked if they are prepared to downsize and release half a plot and a general plea could be sent to all plot holders **Action: PC**
* a letter had been received from a tenant advising that there had been contamination of plot 1B many years ago, which may be expensive to resolve
* the new tenant of Plot 29 has cleared the rubbish to the top end of the plot. The Clerk will arrange to have it removed **Action: MB**

**Website:** The Allotment Rules need updating, but otherwise the page was thought to be satisfactory **Action: PC**

**Members Exchange:**

* it was suggested that the bank on the west side of the new entrance gate could be turned into a wild flower area, rather than just allowed to revert to weeds

**Date of next inspections:** Tuesday 4th August 9.30am

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 4th August 7.30pm