

Winterton Allotment Group

Meeting Wednesday 08th January 2020 in Winterton Council Office at 6pm

Present: Kyela Mathieson (Assistant)
Mr Ken Howden
Mr Ian Knight
Mr Phill Johnson
Mrs Carole Hammond
Mrs Lesley-Ann Celini
Miss Kirstie Cascino

Welcome: KJM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr John Chidwick, Mr Rod Williams and Mrs Jackie Doughty

Recap of actions from previous meetings:

- i) KJM confirmed that after all the tenancy renewal are received, she will be contacting any outstanding to ascertain if they are renewing. This will then give her the opportunity to see exactly what is available and work down the waiting list. KJM explained that although there may be quite a few plots become available, she must allocate them by working down the waiting list, giving the next person the option to pick which plot they would like. This is the only fair way or people would be arguing over certain plots.
- ii) Wheelbarrow pad lock has now been replaced.
- iii) The ditch at the front has been cleared by Phill. Thanks, given to Phill for all his hard work and this was a difficult job and now the water is flowing lovely. Concerns were raised about this ditch becoming unstable. Ideas were discussed if we could do anything to secure it however KJM advised that we are trying to contact Angilan Water as technically it is there responsibility and we should wait for the outcome of discussion with them before any action is decided.

Points raised by Council

- i) Flooding, The allotment flooded last month quite severely, although there is no controlling the weather is there anything we can do to minimise the impact? The ditch being cleared at the front has helped. Ken explained that the ditch running along the back of the plots is not always cleared by the tenants. KJM confirmed that this is an issue that will be stressed with all tenants and will be mentioned to existing tenants. Ken also explained that the water in this ditch doesn't flow well because when the ditch was installed it wasn't marked out properly. He will speak to Rod Williams to see, if we were able to get a digger would he mark the ditch as this was his previous occupation.
- ii) Excess and wastage. KJM asked that in peak growing and harvesting season do plot holders have any excess produce after they have what they need and distributed to family and friends? Would they consider donating any excess to local families in need and possibly to groups such as lunch and linger, which is a service provided by The Poirier Foundation. They cook meals for the over 55's at a subsidised rate. This suggestion was well received and prompted a discussion about the possibility of a community plot. All attending said that when planting up they have an excess of seeds or seedling plants which normally they either pass around between fellow growers or leave at the end of your plot or the allotments gates for other growers to help themselves to. Rather than doing this they could plant them in a community

plot. KJM asked if half plot would be suitable which everyone agreed would be ideal size to manage. General concerns were that not everyone would get involved and the work would be left down to only a few. KJM explained that inevitability there will be people that won't want to be involved and that is their choice and no reflection on them as everyone has different circumstances. Agreed that KJM would send an email to all tenants to gauge interest and report back at the next meeting. This subject diversified into the possibility of providing veg boxes to families in need possibly in the style of 'Hello fresh' where you give a recipe card and all the ingredients to make that recipe in the box.

- iii) KJM asked if anyone had a speciality recipe which they made (Lesley's pumpkin soup, for example) would they mind taking photos of the produce growing, then harvested, mid-way through the cooking procedure and the finished dish. Then write out a recipe card. These could possibly be published in Winterton Out and About magazine or we could even investigate a cook book. It would also fall in line with the veg box idea. This was well received and everyone said they would try to get involved.
- iv) Communal Compost Heap. Would this be something they would consider? Not sure where it would go. Ken explained he composted once and although the compost was lovely it caused horrific amounts of weeds and for this reason no one really does composting. Ian explained they bag it up and take it down the tip.
- v) NLC are launching an enhancing your environment initiative which has funding available. Is there any way we could take advantage of this? Everyone has water butts. Hedging around the allotment would be nice to help break the wind. Ken and Phill explained that hedging is expensive and takes years to establish. KJM said that it could be an ongoing project and planting a few plants as and when possible would achieve the goal in the long run. KJM to investigate this further. Wildlife, Kirsty suggested Owl boxes but unfortunately there isn't any trees they could be attached to. Suggestions were made about planting to attract bees and butterflies. Lavender and Dahlias are great for this, everyone agreed to consider this when planting this year.

Points raised by Allotment Holders:

- i) Ian asked if anyone was aware of the market garden Winterton 20-22 are planning? Kirsty thought this is earmarked for the land behind the Spar shop. KJM explained that she doesn't know anything but can investigate and come back to them at the next meeting as this might impact the decision to go ahead with the community plot.

Any other business:

Meeting dates were discussed and the following dates were preliminarily agreed upon;

Wednesday 1st April 2020

Wednesday 1st July 2020

Wednesday 7th October 2020

All meetings to be held at the Town Council office and start at 6pm. Once these dates have been crossed checked to ensure they do not clash with any other meetings planned they will be confirmed and added to the website under the allotment section.

The following matters were highlighted to all attending the meeting to make members aware of what is going on locally and anyone wishing to get involved would be very welcome.

The Civic Awards are open for nominations If anyone would like to nominate a person or business that is involved with helping the community, please contact council office.

The council are still looking for people to join the Neighbourhood Plan, this cannot move forward with out public support and if anyone would be prepared to get involved and attend meetings please let either Kyela or Lisa know.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 1st April 2020 at 6.00pm, Winterton Town Council Office, 52 West Street