

Allotment Holders Meeting 7th Jan 2012 at 10am

The Annual General meeting was held at the W.I. Hall, this was carried over from last year after an emergency arose and the last meeting was cancelled. 16 people attended and was a good mix from the Watton Road allotments (W/R) and the Dereham Road allotments (D/R). This was a good chance to air views and to keep everyone informed of any developments.

1. Rats at (W/R). A meeting was held on the 2nd December between the smallholder Kathy McCarthy, David Plant Allotment Holder (W/R), Paul Chubbock Chairman of the Parish Council and Jamie Bayliss Rodent Exterminator, to discuss the best way forward in dealing with the rat situation. Paul Chubbock reported. The plan is to clear the ditches and trim back hedges. When these jobs are done then Jamie Bayliss will put bait boxes down along the ditch line between the smallholdings and the allotments and will monitor them. Hopefully the rats will not trouble the allotment holders! All allotment holders will not bait any of their lands nor grow any sweet corn this year (sweet corn is used by rats as a counter agent to the rat poison) and we will see if this works, if not we will review the situation at the end of the season. Meanwhile as sensible allotment holders please maintain, where possible items stored in rat proof bins.

2. Bonfires at the (D/R) allotments. As per your Tenancy agreements The Schedule clause 3, the tenant should not cause any annoyance or nuisance to the occupier of any other allotment or any local resident. Particular care is to be taken when having a bonfire that the smoke is not blowing toward any nearby property. It is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 2000 to cause a nuisance with smoke. To keep bonfires within reasonable limits, rubbish from outside the allotments must not be brought to the allotment for burning.

3. Water Charges. There is a short fall in voluntary income and water bills, therefore after much discussion it was agreed to compulsory charge every member £5 per year for each allotment regardless. This will be put forward at the next Parish Council Meeting and if approved will be implemented at the annual general meeting next Oct.

4. Can I have prompt payment on rents please? There are still four allotments outstanding. Thank you.

5. Judging on the Best Allotment holders will be judged in secret when you least expect it! This will ensure that all allotment holders will keep their allotments looking their best at all times. In addition, I will be doing a spot check every two months to ensure that all the allotments are being maintained and there are no problems

6. I will look into the widening of the opening at the (D/R) so that Trailers bringing in manure etc can manoeuvre easier.

7. Cones need to put out on the footpath (D/R) Sylvia Tuck to be responsible for this.

8. Need more parking space at (W/R) Paul Chubbock said it would be okay to use section mention by David Plant.

9. Allotments to be numbered this to be done by David Plant and myself.

10. The Annual General Meeting will be the next meeting on the 6th Oct 10am

The meeting closed with mince pies and coffee at 11am.