

WEST BERGHOLT ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES 14/1/21

Zoom meeting

1. Apologies – none
2. Voting in new Chairperson. Lynda Robinson volunteered to take on this role having served on the Committee for many years.
Thank you to Mervyn Donnelly & Harry Stone for temporarily standing in as Chair.
Mervyn has decided to stand down from the Committee due to other current commitments.
3. Teresa Tubby was voted onto the Committee. A warm welcome was given to Teresa who brings a wealth of allotment knowledge. We currently have one committee vacancy, if anyone is interested please contact the Chairperson.
Action – Layla to update the Notice Boards with a new contact sheet.
4. Rents will increase by £2 per plot from 1st October 2021.
Plot holders who are aged 60 or over as at 30/9/21 will continue to receive a concession. However, from 1/10/21 no new concessions will apply.
We will be looking to reduce the differential between concessions & the standard rate over a period of time.
Amongst other things a decision was based on increased water usage due to the hot summers we have been experiencing, the need to budget for an extra skip as there are bonfire restrictions due to Covid & the fact we did not apply an increase last year.
Our rents remain very competitive compared to other allotments sites in the area, especially those run by Colchester Borough Council. One reason for this is that we do a lot of the work on site ourselves with the help of volunteers.
5. There are currently 3 outstanding rent payments & 2 people on the waiting list for a plot. Following plot inspections in December letters have gone out to problem plots asking for progress to be made.
6. New rule to be added **'Young children must be supervised at all times and not left unattended at water tanks'**.
7. There is concern about cars parking on site & we have received several complaints from plot holders regarding this.
Rule 18 clearly states that **'access is only for dropping off or picking up equipment/waste etc. and not for parking, unless special permission is given by the Parish Clerk'**.
The Committee agreed to tighten up on this & to aid compliance the areas where cars park will be taped off. If a person needs to drop off goods or pick up they can stop by or near their plot to do so & then move their vehicle.
This rule will also be amended to state **'No vehicles will be permitted on to site whatsoever from 1st November to the 31st March. These dates can be changed at the discretion of the Committee'**.
8. Plot 32 which is near the T junction will be marked out and once again be let out as a plot
9. Stuart to resend Norma email regarding new shed costs so she can progress the grant application for this.
10. Layla is progressing our new website page on the Village website.
AOB
11. The 'WBallotment' email address will now be held by the Parish Clerk & managed by Norma & Lynda
12. Layla discussed her idea of a communal compost area where the bonfire wood is currently kept. The Committee were in agreement with this & it will be discussed further at our next meeting

13. Norma has taken on responsibility for Plot 1 as an Allotment Wellbeing/Community plot.
This is sited in the far corner by the Electricity substation on Chapel Road.
Plot holders will be encouraged to use this for their excess plants, to pick produce for their own needs, to feed the Charity Stall with produce but also the area is to be used for socialising when we are allowed as benches will be provided.
As this is a community plot for all to use we will request the rent payment of £23 from the Charity Stall funds.
14. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of a composting toilet on site. Opinion was that ensuring volunteer cleaners would be problematic & therefore we will not proceed with this.
It was also felt that a disabled access on to plot 1 from Chapel Road was not appropriate at this time.
15. Next Zoom meeting 8/4/21 7:30pm

Norma Smith
Secretary WBAA
17/1/21